

Europe MPs throw out budget by big majority

EEC draft budget for 1980 was thrown out by the European Parliament yesterday amid cheers and applause. The historic decision was made by 288 votes to 54 despite a last-minute appeal from Mr Brian Lenihan, Irish chairman of the Council of Ministers, not to "go down the road of confrontation".

Jeers as final plea is rejected

Michael Hornsby

bour, Dec 13
cheering, clapping, and waving order papers in their hands, the European Parliament yesterday rejected the EEC draft budget for 1980 by a vote of 288 to 54. It was the first time in the history of the Community that a Parliament's legal action against an appeal from the Council of Ministers, the Irish chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers, not to "go down the road of confrontation" with the Council, had been successful.

able without
onsibility?

red and Mr. Lenihan had spent all night in the Parliament's debating chamber in a last-minute appeal to the Parliament to accept the budget. The budget, which was rejected, was a "stable without responsibility" which would have allowed the EEC to spend more than it collected in 1980. The budget would have allowed the EEC to spend more than it collected in 1980. The budget would have allowed the EEC to spend more than it collected in 1980.

Explaining their positions before the vote, which was carried out amid some confusion with the aid of a new electronic voting apparatus, leaders of the main political groups rose one after another to assert the Parliament's democratic right to control the budget.

One of the most striking statements came from Mr. Martin Bangemann, German leader of the Liberal group, who accused the Council of treating the Parliament as an inferior body that could be fobbed off with a few legalistic amendments to the budget.

The Liberal, who earlier had been thought likely to vote against rejection, spoke in fact, thus making it necessary for a majority for rejection a certainty.

Parliament calls for
new draft budget

The Parliament last night demanded the addition of some £430m to spending on the agricultural sector, mainly regional and industrial development, social aid to the unemployed, scientific research, and energy projects. Member states refused to offer more than £130m.



The Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, after Crown Princess Sonja of Norway switched the lights on yesterday.

Revie ban lifted but FA may put new charge

By Craig Seaton

and Norman Fox
A new charge of bringing the game into disrepute has been brought by the Football Association against Mr Don Revie, the former England manager, who yesterday won his High Court action to have lifted a 10-year ban on his involvement in domestic football.

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Ministers' dilemma as NUJ wins on blacking

By Fred Emery

A powerful reaffirmation yesterday by the House of Lords of existing trade unions' immunities from civil action in "secondary" industrial action has faced the Government with a dilemma in its new Employment Bill.

The problem, first disclosed in the Times of November 13, arose with the Law Lords' unanimous reversal of the earlier restrictive judgment in the Court of Appeal by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls.

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Britain will be bombed, Provisional IRA says

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

Provisional IRA sources in Belfast said last night that any planned bombing attacks on the British mainland would go ahead despite police raids in several centres on Wednesday.

The sources confirmed that it is policy to renew bombing raids on the mainland but would not say whether any imminent attacks were planned. The long absence of bombing expeditions in England was due to a re-organization of the IRA's structure into a tightly-knit cell system, which has been completed for some time.

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'Lift ban' demand by Rhodesia protesters

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Dec 13

Lord Soames, the Governor of southern Rhodesia, faced the first test of his authority today when 1,000 chanting and singing Africans demonstrated against his failure to lift the ban on the Patriotic Front - guerrilla alliance.

Before the demonstration ended, Mr Misa, the senior representative in Rhodesia of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu wing of the Patriotic Front, told the crowd that "if the Governor has brought back legality to this country, then he must make it legal".

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Buying Dewar's is like hooking a salmon when you expected a trout.

London talks, page 7

There is a sense of disappointment in black nationalist circles that Lord Soames has done little to assert his rule since his arrival.

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land Revenue shared over

ids on offices

aw Lords overturned a Court of ruling that the Inland Revenue duty of an illegal and excessive power in raising the office of assessor finance group. But Mr. Plummer, the group's managing director, said that they would continue the fight against the Revenue's action. They would also ask for damages for loss of business.

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'Misleading' evidence in aid scheme

The Department of Energy and Sir Jack Rampton, its chief officer, have been censured by the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts for giving "grossly inaccurate and misleading evidence".

The criticism arises from an investigation by the committee which revealed that the department had overpaid grants to a total of £44m in connection with an aid scheme to boost British companies' participation in the North Sea offshore oil industry.

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Quebec language law overruled

The Canadian Supreme Court has overturned an unconstitutional French law of a Quebec law making French the sole official language of the province.

In light of the ruling the Quebec Government is to restore English as the other language of courts and the Legislature.

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England drop Gooch

Graham Gooch has been dropped from England's team to play in the first Test against Australia in Perth. Miller replaces him and Kent's fast bowler, Dilley, wins his first cap. Randall will open the innings with Boycott.

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On other pages

Leader page, 15
Letters: On the role of gold in currencies, from Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP; on change in writ of summons, from Mr Arthur Weir; and on smoking, from Mr David Simpson, and others.

Features, pages 9, 14
Cartoon: A cartoon on the new motto towards peace between Israel and Egypt. John Young asks if another office block boom is on the way.

Sports, pages 2, 10
Football: Grimsby must play League Cup replay at Derby; Rugby Union: violence over the Welsh scrum; new sponsorship for major events.

Arts, page 13
David Robinson reviews Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*; Irving Wardle on *Prigley's When We Are Married* and Paul Griffiths on Gosh's *Bagpuss* the Great in *Fallen*.

Business News, pages 17-24
Stock markets: Cites continued to gain ground with rise of 50p. But equities remained cautious ahead of today's economic indicators. The FT index fell 2.7p to 415.

Haughey pledge to continue border security

From Our Correspondent Dublin

The Government of the Irish Republic will maintain co-operation with Britain on border security, Mr Charles Haughey, the new Prime Minister, said last night.

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Dewar's

Possibly a touch more expensive, always unquestionably smoother.



20m building for

's ruled out

Margaret Thatcher firmly ruled out a Commons a go-ahead on the project to provide more space for offices in Westminster. "We cannot ask people to undertake so unless we are prepared to 'bribe' ourselves", she said.

Hospital's fatal error

A mistake of samples led to a man having an operation for cancer although he did not have the disease, an inquest today told. The patient, who subsequently died, was said to have asked the operation was necessary because he was suffering from a "bad cold".

More cuts threatened

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has confirmed that the Government intends to make another round of public spending cuts. "We need to have another go this year in order to get it right if the 'aid' she told a meeting of the Conservative backbench committee. She made a clear reference to tackling the "pay-work syndrome" - accusing speculation that the Government was considering new measures on unemployment benefits.

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HOME NEWS

New building for MPs will not go ahead because of financial stringency, Mrs Thatcher rules

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

There is no possibility of the "going ahead" of the new building for the House of Commons, said Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, when asked in the Commons yesterday about the project, launched on Wednesday, for the building of a new parliamentary precinct opposite Big Ben in Bridge Street at a cost of more than £120m.

At the press conference on Wednesday, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House of Commons, said that the plan had to be considered against the background of financial stringency.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Anthony Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton, North, referred to the building as "a gin palace and swimming bath".

Mrs Thatcher replied firmly that there was no possibility of the project going ahead, and added: "We really cannot ask people to undertake burdens unless we also are prepared to bear burdens ourselves."

Nevertheless, it was clear from comments outside the Chamber that many MPs want new accommodation to be built so that Parliament can function more effectively.

Among them was Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, and chairman of the newly appointed Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service.

He said: "It is good news that Parliament is to debate the project because the extra building is urgently needed to accom-

modate the ordinary work of Parliament."

Mr du Cann said that when all the 14 new departmental select committees and their sub-committees got to work, and standing committees were engaged at the same time in four or five rooms on the consideration of Bills, there would not be enough space to go round.

"The pressure on facilities is such that it is difficult to find a committee room to do the necessary work of investigation that MPs are now being called upon to carry out," he said.

"It is not a matter of empire-building. If MPs are to strengthen their powers in the control of the Executive they must have proper facilities. At present they do not have them. It is inevitable that extra accommodation should be provided. To talk about swimming pools is rubbish. But committee rooms and space for the staff are indispensable if we are to do our jobs properly."

His committee had decided on a massive task involving the examination of the Treasury of the economy. "It is absurd to think that you can accommodate that work in a telephone box," he said.

After the exchanges in the Commons, Mr Marlow said he welcomed the Prime Minister's assurance. Accommodation was difficult but at a time of financial stringency it was wrong to talk about launching the project.

He said: "If we were to approve expenditure of £120m on a gin

palace and swimming pool in a parliamentary building over the road it would be an insult to the electors," he said.

Mr Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for Surrey, North-West, said: "Example starts at home. This is one area where we can set an example of thrift."

Mr John Parker, Labour MP for Barking, Dagenham, who is Father of the House, said that he was in favour of the project but not now. He had been against earlier projects because he did not like the architectural style; the plans this time looked more reasonable.

He said there was an urgent need for more space for the Commons Library, a point that has been taken up by other MPs.

Our Planning Reporter writes: Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy and senior partner of Casson, Godwin and Partners, the architects responsible for the scheme, said yesterday that he was not really surprised by Mrs Thatcher's statement.

"But the point which has not been appreciated is that the first phase involves the rehabilitation of several buildings which belong to the Government, and which are listed. Sooner or later they have got to be repaired, and if they are going to put some people in them, then those people must as well be MPs."

"I would have thought it was only prudent housekeeping to go ahead with phase one."

Letters, page 15

New committees 'should have full-time experts'

By Our Political Staff

Expert advisers to the new-style Commons select committees which will inquire into the workings of government departments should be employed on a permanent basis, Mr George Cunningham, Labour MP for Islington, South, and Finsbury, told the Parliamentary Labour Party last night.

Mr Frederick Willey, chairman of the PLP, said that he had already raised this with the Commons authorities.

He said after the meeting that he recommended that such appointments might affect the staffing structure of the Commons, and there was a need for flexibility.

Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-East, has been elected chairman of the select committee on the social services, after first rising with Mr David Ennals, the former Secretary of State for Social Services.

Mr John Giddings, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and chairman of the employment select committee, announced inquiries into the legal immunity of trade unions and related topics, unfilled vacancies, at a time of high unemployment, and the impact of new technology on employment.

Mrs Khashoggi question for Prime Minister

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister is to be asked in the Commons next week if she will refer to the Security Commission the evidence given by Mrs Khashoggi in respect of her relationship with a politician involved in defence matters.

Mr James Wellbeloved, Labour MP for Bexley, Erith and Crayford, and a former junior defence minister, tabled the question last night for written priority answer on Monday.

Downing Street last night would not comment on the court case at the Central Criminal Court beyond saying that no report had been called for and none was needed.

The politician's name was written down and shown to the judge and jury during the trial, in which three British Yard detectives were sentenced for blackmailing Mrs Khashoggi, but he was referred to as Mr X.

Mrs Khashoggi, the former wife of an international arms dealer, confirmed while giving evidence against the three officers that the relationship with the politician was "more than a friendship."

She said that the affair was "common knowledge in her household," but emphasized that she had never been to the politician's office or seen any of his papers.

Mr Wellbeloved said last night: "The whole area of security in respect of the Ministry of Defence and defence forces generally is a very important matter."

There have been a number of Security Commission reports that make it clear that association with blackmailers and people involved in corrupt practices can be a security risk.

A recent court case involved corruption and blackmail, for which three police officers were sentenced on the basis of the evidence given by Mrs S. Khashoggi, and during the course of her evidence the name of a politician was given to the judge.

"Parliament is entitled to the assurance that the politician concerned did not have access to sensitive defence material. I believe it is important that the Security Commission, whose terms of reference cover this sort of broad question, should be invited to consider the matter."

More cuts on way, 1922 group warned

By Our Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher warned Tory backbenchers last night that more public expenditure cuts were to come and the Government would expect their support in the difficult months ahead.

The Prime Minister said: "We need to have another go at getting public expenditure down." Later, when backbenchers banged their desks at her remark that the Government had to "tackle the 'why work?' syndrome," she said: "I hope when you apply the principle you will not duck the reality."

The implication is that if MPs ran into constituency difficulties because of the Government's economic and financial strategy, they would recognize and support the administration's aims.

Mrs Thatcher, who was addressing the 1922 Committee, said the Government was laying the economic and legislative foundations for the future.

It was important to understand the changing attitudes the Government was bringing about. Management was bringing about changes in the way it ran the country. Controls on pay, prices, dividends and exchange had all gone. "We are not having beer and sandwiches at No 10," she said.

Among trade unionists, moderates were now standing up to militancy, and the successes of the secret ballots were showing.

The Government was involved in another round of cutting public expenditure. "We have to look for better ways of doing things, and we have to cut wherever it is," she said.

Next year the legislative programme would be the heaviest ever, but it was designed to lay the foundations for a sound Conservative economy.

The Government was determined to cut Britain's £1000m contribution to the EEC: that was a battle that had still to be won.

David Blake writes: The Prime Minister's comments provide the first official confirmation that a new round of spending cuts are under way, probably to take effect in the financial year beginning next April. Her comments on the "why-work?" syndrome are bound to encourage speculation that the Government is thinking of giving way to backbench pressure to end the policy of increasing benefits for the unemployed and those on social security to take account of the full impact of price increases.

Any move by the Government to end the indexation of unemployment benefits is certain to lead to bitter protests by unions and the Labour Party, since it would involve significant cuts in the living standards of the unemployed.

The protests are likely to be more intense by the fact that unemployment is certain to rise sharply throughout next year.

Minister says threat is already frightening buyers away Steel strike 'would be catastrophic'

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, gave a grim warning to steel workers yesterday that if they embarked on their threatened strike in early January they would be driving the British Steel Corporation into deeper trouble than it is now, with plant closures and redundancies.

Speaking in the Commons at the start of a debate on the crisis in the industry, which is already being cut back by 50,000 jobs, Sir Keith said that a strike would not only harm the suppliers and users but would also have a catastrophic effect on the workers.

In the past few days the steel industry has been hit by a combination of factors: buyers were already seeking alternative sources.

Sir Keith's uncompromising stand and his almost effortless speech left MPs on both sides of the House in no doubt that there would be no intervention, no state subsidies and precious little else to soften the shock of the closures in the steel industry.

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In a sentence towards the end of his speech he expressed the hope that the industry would approach the situation in a more human manner and he did promise briefly that there would be Government action of some unspecified kind to cushion the social consequences.

Over and over again, as he was repeatedly interrupted by Mr Callaghan from the Labour front bench and by other MPs from steel and coal constituencies, Sir Keith reiterated his questions to the management of the corporation.

Pressed by the Leader of the Opposition to say what would happen if the industry did not break even by the end of the year, Sir Keith said that BSC should make no operating loss in the year 1980-81 after depreciation and interest.

BSC would have to manage its affairs to achieve that target. If the steelworkers decided to strike, then the consequences might be more reductions and closures as potential buyers were frightened away.

He begged workers not to inflict self-injury on top of the market injury. Sir Keith said that the BSC management faced a seriously deteriorating situation and no one could be sure that it could break even without more closures.

His tough stand, which appeared to be received somewhat nervously even by some of his own backbenchers, was firmly backed earlier in the day by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

As did Sir Keith, Mrs Thatcher firmly told the House that any questions about the way the BSC management was doing its job should be referred to the corporation.

Mr Michael Foot, shadow Minister of the House, wounding the debate for the Opposition, gave a warning that if the Government continued with its present policy it would condemn not only the steel industry but a considerable section of the coal industry to disaster.

Labour, he promised, would fight the steel closure proposals with everything in its power.

The debate ended with the House endorsing the Government's steel policy by 310 votes to 257, a Government majority of 57.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Sir Keith agrees to meet Mr Murray

By Our Labour Editor

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has agreed to meet Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, tomorrow for urgent talks about the deepening crisis in the state steel industry.

Railway union leaders yesterday, however, urged behind the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which has called its 90,000 state steel members out on strike from January 2, by promising to "black" the steel industry with the rundown of its production by rail if the stoppage goes ahead.

The TUC steel industry committee unanimously rejected the British Steel Corporation's offer to cut 50,000 jobs over the next eight months. The committee will be recommending opposition to the cuts at next Wednesday's meeting of the TUC's General Council.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the ISTC, said last night: "It is government action that is giving us the destruction of the basis of British industry."

Leaders of the steelworkers' union had agreed to talk with Sir Keith, but the two sides stuck to their entrenched positions and no statement was issued. Little progress is understood to have been made in the discussions between Sir Keith and other ISTC officials and Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the corporation, and Mr Bob Scholey, its chief executive.

The ISTC general secretary afterwards urged British Steel to "hide behind the Government" to get its own way over plant closures, job cuts and the 2 per cent pay offer that precipitated the strike call.

Mr Sidney Weinstock, general secretary of the NUR, said in the meeting with Sir Keith, but the corporation side rejected the initiative.

Last night's apparently fruitless discussions were chiefly concerned with the rundown of steelmaking at Scunthorpe and Corby, plants that BSC had already sought to close. Talks on redundancy pay for the men

Wait for inquiry result, dismissed BL man says

By Clifford Webb

Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed British Leyland shop steward's leader, said in Birmingham yesterday: "I do not see any problem about my resignation."

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers began an inquiry nine days ago into his departure.

Asked what would happen if the inquiry produced a compromise criticism, BL management but stopping short of recommending an official strike action in support of his reinstatement, he said: "Let us wait and see what the inquiry does."

But Mr Jack Adams, chairman of the Longbridge joint shop stewards' committee and one of three other stewards threatened with dismissal, said: "Anything less than the unconditional reinstatement of our convenor will be nothing less than tragic for BL."

The inquiry is not expected to report before mid-January. However, Mr Robinson's supporters are finding it increasingly difficult to persuade workers to maintain militant attitudes.

Blackening case decision worsens union relations

By Our Labour Editor

The Government's evident determination to end the "secondary blackening" in response to the Law Lords' decision in the Express Newspapers v MacShane case is almost certain to exacerbate already worsening relations between ministers and union leaders.

While lawyers at the Department of Employment were studying how to close the "loophole" opened up by the case, the TUC Employment Policy and Organization Committee yesterday considered its next move in the unions' campaign against the employment Bill published last week.

The unions decided to seek a further meeting with Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, before the national TUC conference on January 22, to restore the dangerous consequences of industrial relations" of proceeding with the proposed legislation.

Mr Prior's intention to oust the kind of law taken by journalists at the Daily Express is traced by his aides to the Conservative Party election manifesto which promised to

Issue of doctors' judgment put off

Any government initiative on establishing a method of investigating complaints about the clinical judgement of doctors in the National Health Service must wait until next May, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

It is expected that a sub-committee of the Joint Consultants' Committee to consider the issue will have produced its conclusions by then.

Council men offered 13 pt to stall winter strife

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

Local authority employees are hoping to avoid last winter's bitter strife with the manual workers after being offered last night to let the members consider over a next month a pay offer was between 14 and 15 per cent.

Union negotiators will meet on the employers' on January 10, on whether delegate meetings representing 1,200,000 council workers have accepted an offer of 14 per cent, three days after the offer was made by the employers.

Acceptance of the offer would give some council workers who have been struggling themselves to a "year rate" of around 20 per cent after settlements made by the workers and the unions.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the employers' said last night that because of cash limits imposed on local authorities by the Government, the offer was a "year rate" of around 20 per cent after settlements made by the workers and the unions.

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Nuclear pact extended

A five-year extension of the Government's nuclear material agreement with the United States was signed on December 13, the Prime Minister disclosed last night.

This extension of the 1958 Atomic Energy Defence Agreement will give Britain access to the Trident missile system and other warhead technology required for renewal of the British independent deterrent, when the Cabinet has made its final decision next spring.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts shown by lines with triangles or semicircles. Clouds in tenths. Wind speed in mph. Rain, snow, or other weather conditions indicated by symbols.

Today: Sun rises 7:53 am, sets 3:52 pm. Moon rises 2:27 am, sets 1:37 pm. Light up 4:22 pm to 7:29 am. High water: London Bridge, 9:29 am, 5.5m (18ft); 11 pm, 5.5m (18ft). Low water: 2.2 am, 9.5m (32ft); 2.56 pm, 10.2m (33ft). Dover, 6:59 am, 5.5m (18ft); 7:44 pm, 17.7m (58ft). Hull, 1:20 am, 5.5m (18ft); 2:22 pm, 5.5m (18ft). Liverpool, 7:15 am, 7.4m (24ft); 7:35 pm, 7.5m (24ft).

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: Low pressure over E districts will move away, but further troughs will move NE into W area. London, SE, central S England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Mostly dry and bright, becoming cloudy at midnight. Light rain or drizzle, becoming rain, decreasing to moderate backing SW; max temp 8°C (46°F). East Angles, E. Central N England: Rain, heavy in places, clearing during morning, bright or sunny intervals developing; wind NW, strong to gale, decreasing to moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F). SW England, S Wales: Mostly dry and bright, becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain; heavy in evening; wind W, moderate backing SW; strong; max temp 10°C (50°F) to 12°C (54°F).

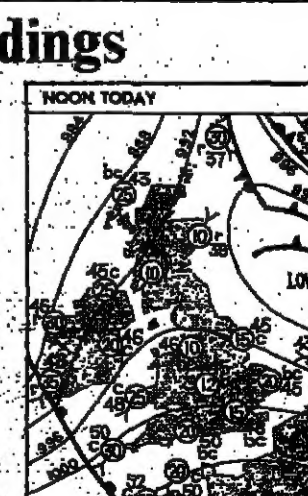
N. Ireland, Scotland, Lancashire, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, and scattered showers, more general cloud and rain spreading from SW in evening; wind SW, moderate, increasing to strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Continuing unsettled, with further rain in most places and strong winds, but brighter showery spells; temp near normal.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind S, veering W, fresh or strong, local gale; sea rough.

English Channel (E): Wind W or SW, fresh or strong, local gale; sea rough.

WEATHER REPORTS: YESTERDAY: MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fog; h, hail; r, rain; s, snow; t, thunder; w, wind.



Today

Sun rises	Sun sets
7:53 am	3:52 pm
Moon rises	Moon sets
2:27 am	1:37 pm
Light up	Light down
4:22 pm	7:29 am
High water	Low water
London Bridge, 9:29 am, 5.5m (18ft); 11 pm, 5.5m (18ft)	2.2 am, 9.5m (32ft); 2.56 pm, 10.2m (33ft)
Dover, 6:59 am, 5.5m (18ft); 7:44 pm, 17.7m (58ft)	Hull, 1:20 am, 5.5m (18ft); 2:22 pm, 5.5m (18ft)
Liverpool, 7:15 am, 7.4m (24ft); 7:35 pm, 7.5m (24ft)	

Overseas selling prices

Commodity	Unit	Price
Bahrain oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50
Bahian oil	barrel	22.50

Don't forget the Christmas Post.

Please post before these dates and don't leave it until the last minute!

PARCELS
17 DEC

8^{PM} POST
17 DEC

10^{PM} POST
19 DEC

Royal Mail

Get the most from your post

Tanker drivers return at more Shell terminals

By Our Labour Staff

Tanker drivers at four more Shell terminals returned to work yesterday, leaving only seven of the company's 45 depots still idle.

Workers at the seven depots have been suspended by Shell for not cooperating with the use of outside contract labour, but with the drift back to work by their colleagues, other depots may be only a matter of time before they return to normal working.

The depots at which drivers returned to work yesterday are at St. Helens, the Thames Estuary, and Ardrossan, Grangemouth, in Scotland.

One-day Tube strike threatened

London's underground service will be severely disrupted on Monday if an unofficial one-day strike goes ahead. The strike is being planned by some members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

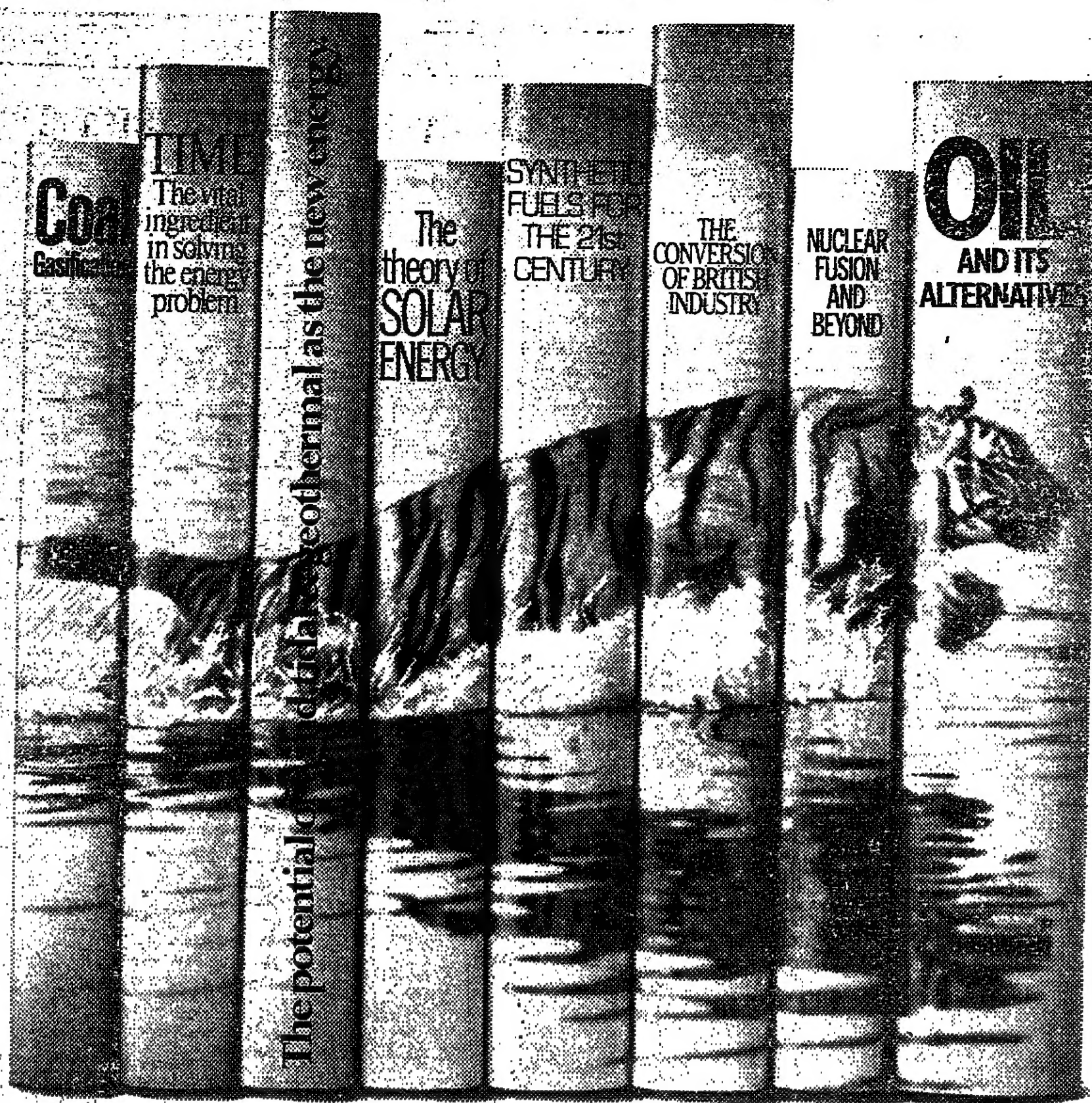
The Aslef men say they will have some unofficial backing from members of the National Union of Railworkers. The dispute is over back pay.

Man detained over documents

A man has been detained in connection with the confidential Ministry of Defence documents found dumped last week in a hedge at Polstead, Suffolk.

Police said yesterday that they had recovered a briefcase and a bag containing documents and a letterhead document viewed at Stowmarket, Suffolk.

50:10:10



You've had the theory. Now for the practice.

Esso have spent more than £1,500 million developing North Sea oil.

Searching for new sources of oil and gas around the world is costing us several million pounds a day.

We have spent £1,000 million on the Alaskan pipeline.

We are involved in a £2,500 million project for extracting oil from tar sands. (Total heavy oil deposits represent more than double the world's conventional oil reserves.)

We have developed an advanced catalytic process for converting coal into synthetic gas.

We are partners in a £120 million coal liquefaction research project.

We are world suppliers of nuclear fuel for electricity generation.

We are working on uranium enrichment, using both centrifuge and the more advanced laser technique, which we pioneered.

We are leaders in solar photovoltaics, used for communication and navigational aids.

To solve the world's energy problems will take massive investment, experience, and skill....

But it is only through more efficient use of energy now that we will gain the necessary time.



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HOME NEWS

Plans to cut benefits for families of strikers 'are vicious'

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Government proposals to restrict severely benefits for strikers' families were condemned yesterday as "vicious" and likely to lead to a wave of unofficial strikes. The proposals, which were leaked to *Time Out* magazine, would reduce payments for some families by £10 a week, leaving most with benefits of between £1 and £5 a week on present figures.

The proposals, contained in a confidential memorandum from a senior Treasury official sent to Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, are acknowledged to be "significantly different" from others considered by ministers.

The memorandum states that Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, has suggested that there should be no specific provision for hardship payments "even in distressing cases" and that that proposal "is harsher than those considered so far".

However, the memorandum says that the proposal fits in with Sir Geoffrey's plan for hardship payments to be set at a low level or left to the discretion of local social security staff. That idea is said in the memorandum to have been condemned as "unreasonable" by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, whose department emphasised yesterday that no decision had been taken.

The proposals would mean that from next year union members "with an interest in the outcome of a dispute" would be assumed to be receiving £10 a week strike pay from their union, and their benefits would be reduced accordingly.

In addition, instead of ignoring the first £4 of income tax rebates and strike pay, social security staff would be instructed to take those amounts into account in assessing the benefit.

More than 1.8m people will lose under Bill

By Our Social Services Correspondent

More than 1,800,000 people will lose up to £3 a week under the proposed changes in the Social Security Bill, while 703,000 will gain. Nearly nine tenths of the losses will be pensioners, and 8,000 of them will lose £3 or more a week.

The figures were released on the eve of the Government's decision to give the Bill a second reading before Christmas.

The figures, given in a Parliamentary written reply by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, show that 19,000 people will lose £3 a week or more under the Bill. They include 2,000 sick and disabled people, half of them with dependent children, 7,000 unemployed claimants, and 2,000 one-parent families.

There will never be a better time to save with the Leeds Permanent Building Society. It doesn't matter if you have a few pounds, or a few thousand pounds — you'll get a great deal from 'the Leeds'.

But don't leave it too late.

There's one of 325 Leeds branches near you, with friendly staff to help you choose the savings scheme that's right for your pocket. So if you've got an eye on the future, take advantage of 'the Leeds' record interest rates — they'll really give you something to smile about.

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12.89% - 18.41% NET GROSS	12.36% - 17.66% NET GROSS	11.83% - 16.90% NET GROSS	11.30% - 16.14% NET GROSS

Basic rate income tax paid

Remember, whether interest rates go up or down, for five, four, three, or two year 'High Return' Shares we guarantee your money will earn an extra 2%, 1.5%, 1%, or 0.5% respectively, above the Paid-up Share Rate.

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Regular monthly savers gain extra interest, to make their savings grow faster.

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Law Lords overturn tax raids ruling

By a Staff Reporter

By a four-to-one majority the Law Lords yesterday overturned a Court of Appeal ruling of last August that the Inland Revenue had been guilty of an illegal and excessive use of power in carrying out raids at 7 am on July 13 at the West End premises of the Rossmore Finance group.

But Mr Ronald Plummer, the group's managing director, whose home was also raided in a bulk seizure of documents needed for an investigation into suspected tax fraud, indicated they would continue their fight against the department's action.

They would be proceeding with their claim for damages for loss of business and loss of interest on £2.3m of deposits withdrawn after the raid.

More than seventy tax men and police were involved in the raids, in which documents were seized from the offices of Rossmore Ltd and AJR Financial Services, an accounting and secretarial company, and from the homes of Mr Plummer and Mr Roy Tucker, a tax consultant.

Lord Wilberforce said yesterday that since the second World War the important human right of the privacy of a man's home had been eroded by a number of statutes passed by Parliament. A formidable number of officials had powers to enter people's premises and take property away. It was no part of the courts' duty or power, however, to impede the working even of unpopular legislation.

In a minority dissenting judgment, Lord Salmon said the Inland Revenue's new powers under the Finance Act, 1976, were altogether unnecessary, and dangerously encroached on individual liberty. He was convinced that the search warrants in this case were invalid.

Law report, page 12

Plea that 'New Statesman' article could affect the administration of justice

Crown claims that interview with juror was contempt

By Trevor Fishlock

The Attorney General

The Attorney General, QC, the High Court yesterday to have the *New Statesman's* interview with a juror declared a contempt of court. In his view, the court was told, the interview was "a dangerous and deliberate encroachment on the convention of juryroom secrecy".

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, for the *New Statesman*, said there had not been a contempt of court. He said the juror's interview had been a deliberate encroachment on the convention of juryroom secrecy.

Lord Wilberforce, the Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Park were told that the High Court yesterday by Mr Simon Brown, QC, for the Attorney General, that the article was published five weeks after the acquittal of Mr Thorpe and his three co-defendants.

The overwhelming weight of judicial authority is that to interview a juror but also a criticism of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The article, written by Mr David Leigh and Mr Peter Chippendale, was read in court and stated in part: "The outcome of the Thorpe trial looked remarkably like a debacle for Britain's official prosecutors. The trial was misconceived from the start. The Crown's murder charge was a serious impression on the jury."

Mr Brown said the law with regard to protection of jury room secrecy was not clear. Although the *New Statesman* article could not have interfered with the course of justice in the Thorpe case, because all the accused were acquitted, the Attorney General's view was that it was a contempt because of its impact on the administration of justice as a whole.

The article added: "The article is the thin end of a dangerous wedge. If such articles are beyond the reach of law, jury room revelations would become commonplace. That development would be inimical to the proper functioning of the jury room, and so dangerous to the administration of justice that it would signal the end of the jury system as we know it. A line must be drawn, and this article falls on the wrong side."

Mr Brown said that an abuse might develop if jurors were offered money for their disclosure. The convention of jury room secrecy was breaking down. There had been jury room revelations in many publications. With the risk of a growing number of disclosures it was right to invoke the law of contempt.

The administration of justice is threatened when the level of disclosure changes gear," he added. "It now threatens to become intolerable."

Mr Robertson said it would be contrary to public policy to create a new offence where the justification for their offence was open to reasonable debate. Reasonable people could argue in favour of interviewing jurors in certain circumstances. The *New Statesman*, he said, had done nothing to injure the administration of justice.

The hearing continues today.

Operation man died after 'sample error'

From Arthur Osman

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Mr McCann had much of his stomach removed after a surgeon had examined samples that indicated cancer was present.

Dr James Black, who was in administrative charge of the laboratory at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, said that on September 28 he examined a specimen which indicated cancer and he made a report accordingly. The laboratory number and that of the slide corresponded.

An investigation was started on the afternoon that Mr McCann had the operation, as there were grounds for suspecting an error. Dr Black said there had been a transposition of tissue samples. "We have made mistakes in the past, but safe procedures were operated to detect them in time," he said. There had been no careful investigation, but it was still not known what exactly had taken place. "No laboratory is 100 per cent foolproof, but we hope it is as foolproof as humanly possible," Dr Black said.

Mr Michael McCann, aged 22, the son of the dead man, said that his father had worked at a local factory and had enjoyed perfect health. Last July he complained to the family doctor of chest pains after falling off a fence in June. He was admitted to hospital on October 17 and the operation took place five days later. "My father told me he had cancer and asked me not to tell my mother at that stage,"

would prejudice proceedings."

The Attorney General had said that his aim was to clarify the law, and there was no question of seeking to have Mr Bruce Page, editor of the *New Statesman*, committed to prison. He has refused the *New Statesman's* request that its costs should be paid.

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Warning by BMA leader of a million patients on hospital waiting lists

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Mr Anthony Graham, chairman of the council of the British Medical Association, said in London yesterday that the National Health Service was slowly and steadily falling behind in the race to fill the waiting lists of a million patients.

Addressing a luncheon of the Medical Journalists' Association, Mr Graham said he believed the private sector had the potential to fill the gaps in the NHS.

It was in the interests of patients that an acceptable way be found of applying what he believed to be a realistic solution.

The profession was disappointed that the recent Conservative document published by the Government had made no mention of alternative means of financing the NHS. The aim of a comprehensive service had not been achieved, and that target was slipping further away.

"If you are a patient with a hernia, osteoarthritis, a high joint or varicose veins you would say the NHS is failing you, there is no doubt," he said.

In the profession's view the NHS was a great institution of enormous value and they wanted it to go on successfully.

Steps retraced: Woman Police Constable Genine Dalley, aged 21, retracing the last journey of Miss Sally Shepherd, who was raped and murdered in south London 12 days ago. WPC Dalley was dressed yesterday to resemble the murdered, restaurant manageress of the VJC Theatre. She boarded a bus to Peckham at New Cross as Miss Shepherd had done. She will make the journey again today.

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Mr Justice O'Connor will be giving his decision on a preliminary point in a libel action brought by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union against Times Newspapers Ltd, a William Morris Group company, and Mr Paul Routledge, its Labour Editor.

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WEST EUROPE

Tories and Labour act together to force reform of EEC budget

By David Wood
 Strasbourg, Dec 13
 Observers and Labour politicians from the United Kingdom voted in a bloc to support the European Commission in rejecting the Council of Ministers' budget for 1980.

Mr James Scott-Hopkins, the Conservative leader here, said the Council of Ministers must now produce a new budget which is not only fair but also one which will not lead to a new round of inflationary pressures. He said the United Kingdom's main financial interest was to ensure that the budget was not only fair but also one which would not lead to a new round of inflationary pressures.

ato plan offers phased withdrawal of troops

Henry Stanhope
 Correspondent
 Brussels, Dec 13
 Foreign ministers today agreed a new set of arms control proposals which will be discussed at the Vienna talks on reductions in Europe next week. They are said to be the most significant move on nuclear weapons since the 1978 talks on mutual balanced reductions (MBR).

A new Nato offer, details of which will be announced tomorrow, is the latest step to break the deadlock on a recent West German proposal to withdraw 13,000 troops and 30,000 tanks from Central Europe in the first phase of the talks.

ling against ion official. Times' case

Our Own Correspondent
 Dec 13
 A court case arising from the Times' attempt to publish a weekly edition of the newspaper last April has ended in a victory for Dr. Detlev Henschel, director of the West German Press Council.

Just out: THE MINORITY-RIGHTS GROUP'S

New Report No. 8

INEQUALITIES IN ZIMBABWE

Price 75p, plus 25p post and packing from M.B.G., 36 Craven St., London WC2, or good bookshops

her and her Ministers the possibility of being able to restructure the European budget, which is the root cause of Britain's problems with the Community.

Mr Scott-Hopkins added that it was the 60-strong British Conservative group that carried the rejection under the Parliament's voting rules. Consequently the Commission and the Council must produce a new budget for 1980 and "get the balance better" between agriculture and the rest.

When will the Council of Ministers be ready with a new draft budget? Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission's president, told the Parliament that he was waiting for a Council instruction to produce a new preliminary draft. But there will be much diplomatic coming and going before any decision is reached.

It is doubtful whether the French politicians of any party in the run-up to a Presidential election will change the firm stand they took in Strasbourg today.

Majority of six for Portugal's rightist alliance

Lisbon, Dec 13.—Portugal's right-wing Democratic Alliance has won three of the four overseas seats in the new parliament and a six-seat majority over all other parties.

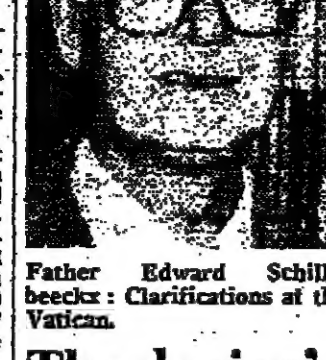
Today's overseas results mean that the final line-up in the 250-seat parliament will be: Socialists 128, Communists 74, Popular Democratic Union, one.—Reuters.

Norway faces crisis over wage restraint Bill

From Our Correspondent
 Oslo, Dec 13
 Just two weeks before the expiry of a price and incomes freeze which has done much to bring the Norwegian economy back on an even keel, the ruling Labour Party faces one of the most acute parliamentary crises of recent years.

Hunger strike for more pay

Paris, Dec 13.—French air traffic controllers have voted to go on hunger strike as part of their continuing battle for higher wages, a better career structure and the right to strike.



Father Edward Schillebeeckx: Clarifications at the Vatican

Theologian's case put to Vatican

From Peter Nichols
 Rome, Dec 13

The Vatican took a conciliatory attitude over its questioning of Professor Edward Schillebeeckx, the Belgian theologian, without concealing the fact that he can expect more serious measures than his answers this week prove satisfactory.

Observers allowed to visit US hostages

From Robert Fisk
 Tehran, Dec 13

International observers are to be allowed to visit the hostages in the American Embassy in Tehran on the personal orders of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Iran theocracy makes new political prisoners

Continued from page 1
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Nicaragua envoy appeals for British aid

By Peter Strafford
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Hunger strike for more pay

Paris, Dec 13.—French air traffic controllers have voted to go on hunger strike as part of their continuing battle for higher wages, a better career structure and the right to strike.

OVERSEAS

Salisbury delegation accepts ceasefire plan while Patriotic Front is close to agreement

By David Spanier
 Diplomatic Correspondent

The Salisbury delegation accepted Britain's ceasefire proposals when the Southern Rhodesia constitutional conference met briefly in plenary session yesterday.

The Patriotic Front submitted figures on the strength of its forces in Rhodesia and continued discussions with the British delegation throughout the day on the location of assembly areas for its guerrillas.

It appeared last night that the Patriotic Front was close to agreement with the British side, although it interrupted the plenary session to complain that the Salisbury delegation was no longer entitled to be present as a separate entity.

Mr Robert Mugabe, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, said that the position had changed since the Salisbury regime surrendered power.

Rhodesians regret passing of 'good old days' but hope for rapid growth

From Nicholas Ashford
 Marandellas, Dec 13

"We have got to accept that the good old days of life as we knew it has gone for ever. It's never going to return. You can't put the clock back."

The speaker was a white woman in the kitchen of a small Rhodesian farming town. She and her husband, a member of the local Women's Voluntary Organisation, were doing their bit towards the war effort.

Quebec told to restore the status of English

From John Best
 Ottawa, Dec 13

The Supreme Court of Canada today declared invalid parts of the 1977 law which made French the only official language in the Quebec provincial legislature and courts.

The Appeal Court had found these provisions to be ultra vires of the British North America Act, which serves as Canada's constitution. The Act, passed by the British Parliament in 1867, stipulated that Quebec's legislature and courts must be bilingual.

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Such a definition involves some narrow and dangerous distinctions which Mr Paknejad perhaps wisely does not pause to consider. His association, he says, has 3,000 members. The Shah's former inmates in its membership, is simply not going to worry about the exiled monarch's retainers.

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Activity Packs. Another imaginative idea from Book Tokens.

Book Tokens

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FOREIGN REPORT

Mr Bush on presidential trail of the Reaganites

George Bush, a retired servant, has been pursuing the presidency for the past few years, and the money now gives him a formidable odds on. He is a Republican, and his political opinions are well known. He is a former governor of Texas, and he is a member of the House of Representatives. He is a member of the House of Representatives, and he is a member of the House of Representatives.

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Mr George Bush: Momentum is the magic word.

Republican decade. The men elected in 1960, he thinks, will have a chance in "turn the country around".

Mr Bush claims that, as former director of the CIA, he "sees the world as it is, not as it was". He is not running against Mr. Connelly, however, but against Mr. Reagan, whose campaign he believes is "a series of lies".

Mr Bush is highly conservative in his political philosophy. He preaches the virtues of private enterprise with all the fervour of a self-made millionaire, and he is a member of the House of Representatives.

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to say that Senator Kennedy's attack on the Shah was "outrageously irresponsible". But he is preparing a scathing attack on the President to be launched as soon as the hostages are safe.

Mr Bush served two terms as congressman and was then defeated in a race for Governor of Texas. Then he was American permanent representative to the United Nations, for two years, and chairman of the Republican Party during the 1972 election and the early days of Watergate.

This, he admits, was a difficult assignment—but he turned it to his advantage by building up acquaintanceship with leading Republicans across the country. After that, he spent a year as head of the American liaison office in Peking and, finally, a year as director of the CIA.

He claims that this makes him the most experienced of candidates, a claim that Mr. Connelly, former Governor of Texas, and former Secretary of the Navy, disputes vigorously. Mr. Bush is not really running against Mr. Connelly, however, but against Mr. Reagan, whose campaign he believes is "a series of lies".

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SPORT

Cricket

England pick Miller but not Gooch

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Perth, Dec 13

The England team for the first Test match against Australia, starting here tomorrow, includes Miller but not Gooch. Randall will open the batting with Boycott, while Miller and Gooch will bat at five and six respectively.

Miller was his first cap in spite of having taken fewer than 70 first class wickets. Since 1978, he has a better batting record than Gooch, who has been chosen for England on such slender statistical evidence.

The places most in doubt when the four members of the England team were named were Miller, Boycott, Randall, and Gooch. Miller was chosen over Gooch, who has been chosen for England on such slender statistical evidence.

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Dillie relaxes in the Australian sunshine. The hard work will come today.

In the Test match in Perth a year ago, though only Boycott at number one and Willis at number eleven kept the same positions in the order.

As a reminder that the era of a Test match brings its special pressures, and as if to show that people come to know their own people, the England team has been named.

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Population in Asia's giants: 2 India

Experts still preach sterilization

family planning programme continues to rise until levelling off at 1200 million, the same size as India.

Mr. Gandhi's previous Health Minister, Mr. Indira Gandhi, has been criticised for her policy of sterilization, which has been criticised for her policy of sterilization.

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Motor racing

Mexico deferment gives US three grands prix

By John Blunsden

Paris became the hub of grand prix racing yesterday when, within the space of nine hours, the ruling body of the sport, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), confirmed the structure of the 1980 racing calendar and teams officially awarded the 1979 world championship prize.

The 1980 world championship has been awarded to the Swedish Grand Prix, which has been followed by the Mexican Grand Prix.

The Swedish Grand Prix of June 15 has been awarded to the Mexican Grand Prix, which has been followed by the Mexican Grand Prix.

Olympic Games

Threat of boycott recedes despite Britain's policy

Yaounde, Dec 13.—The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) met yesterday to discuss the threat of a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games.

The SCSA president, Abraham Oduka, said that the threat of a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games has been receding.

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Tennis

Italians go into final full of apprehension

San Francisco, Dec 13.—The Italian Davis Cup captain, Vittorio Crotta, approaches tomorrow's cup final against the favoured American team hoping for a miracle.

Italy's best chance for an upset lies with Adriano Panatta, who will play two singles matches and the doubles with Paolo Bertolucci.

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LTA must not depend on Wimbledon

With a year's working loss of almost £25,000 and a decline in receipts from Wimbledon, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) met for their annual meeting in London yesterday.

The treasurer, Harry Sargeant, explained the deficit, said: "A year ago, with some confidence, the council approved a budget surplus of over £20,000. Unhappily, this did not materialise, and the accounts show there was a large deficit of £24,662."

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How the Mini proved its politics wrong

The original Mini concept was radical and it was brilliant, an exercise in getting, if only just, a credible four-seater car within an overall length of just 10ft. The trick was to have the engine driving the front and not the back wheels, and to save wherever possible space for the two every possible spare—once devoted to passenger space. The Mini also had a minimal boot: as Sir Alec Issigonis, the car's designer, once remarked: "You do not make a step ladder to the office."

In other words, the Mini was intended to be a town car: to be able to weave in and out of traffic.

As a refresher course, I have been driving the new base version of the Mini, the City, which at £1,404 is one of the cheapest cars sold in Britain, give or take the Fiat 126, Citroën 2CV and Dyane and some dubiously priced East European models. I have to admit that I enjoyed the car more than I ever thought I would.

All the virtues I have outlined shone through: 40 to 45 mpg on two-star fuel, absurdly easy parking and superb manoeuvrability in thick traffic. As I nipped along and through a line of juggernauts stuck fast near Tower Bridge one morning, I thought of that lager company's slogan: a car that reaches parts of the road other cars cannot reach.

And when the traffic does relent, the Mini can be great fun to drive, thanks to light, accurate steering, a much improved gearbox and, above all, excellent roadholding. If you do corner too fast the car will tend to run wide, or understeer, but it is very difficult to "unstick". With its front-wheel drive and wheels at each corner, the Mini set handling standards for a small car in 1959 and it is still up with the best.

Another point to consider is how much less spartan is the basic Mini of 1979 compared with its equivalent of 10, or even five, years ago. Most of the driver's aids and comforts are provided, from heated rear window to outside door mirror, hazard warning lights, two-speed wipers and cloth seats. Some of those items are required by law; all the same specifications have

And the bad news

Serious criticisms of the Mini can, however, still be made, particularly on noise and lack of versatility. With an 850cc engine in the base model, no one expects outstanding performance and the

Serious criticisms of the Mini can, however, still be made, particularly on noise and lack of versatility. With an 850cc engine in the base model, no one expects outstanding performance and the car does not provide it. In town, acceleration is generally adequate; but on the open road there is not much in hand for quick overtaking. And if the car will climb higher than 70 mph without maximum torque, how does it feel in the harshness and vibration of the engine will have forced most drivers to put their earplugs first and settle for the most modest progress.

There is also considerable road noise, which becomes almost unbearable on uneven surfaces and makes the choppy ride seem worse than it is. The Mini can be a rattletrap, and a booming fan and transmission whine do not help. The Ford Escort, hardly one of the world's most refined cars, sounds in comparison like a limousine.

The first thing to be said about space in the Mini is how much there is considering the car's overall dimensions. The car may be only just a four-seater but most people can put up with squashed knees and bent necks for a short journey. The real criticism is that the Mini has not followed the example of other small cars and got itself a third door. Given that the boot is necessarily small, an obvious course would have been to fit a full length tailgate and allow the rear seat to

The Mini's deficiencies have been thrown into sharper relief by the newer breed of small car known, for want of a better term, as "supermini". Paying Sir Alec Issigonis the sincerest form of flattery by annexing his basic ideas, those cars have at the same time extended and developed them.

French cars like the Renault 5, Peugeot 104 and, more recently, the Citroën Visa have demonstrated that small vehicles can still offer an outstanding ride. The Volkswagen Polo has achieved a level of quietness that puts the Mini to shame. All these cars added a couple of feet or so to the Mini's length, giving more room in the back and larger boots without greatly affecting

manoeuvrability or fuel consumption. All, eventually, acquired a rail-gate; some—the Peugeot 104, Renault 5 and Visa—offer two rear side doors.

It sounds like the familiar story of Britain being overtaken on its own intention. There have, over the years, been several proposals for replacing the Mini but the brutal truth is that the company, whether BMC or, in its various guises, Leyland, has never had the money.

Those interested in reading about the Minis that never were, and in seeing what they looked like, should consult Rob Golding's book, *Mini* (Osprey, £6.95), an informative history of the model which was brought out for this year's twentieth anniversary. Sir Alec Issigonis had a replacement ready in the late 1960s, slightly bigger, with smoother styling and that railcar burr the

Since then there have been several other designs, including a stylish new body from Harris Mann of TR7 and Princess fame. Mann's project was abandoned after Leyland's overseas salesmen decided that the original Mini shape had more character. That is the dilemma with any new car: to ensure that

With the Metro, BL has cleverly sidestepped that difficulty by making it clear that the existing Mini will continue in production. The Metro is due to be launched, after the dealers have enjoyed their well-publicized cruise, at the Birmingham International Motor Show in October and promises to be a little bigger than the Issigonis car but smaller than the RS-Fiesta/Polop group. The car will be a hatchback and quite different from the Mini in appearance, but including some mechanical features such as the vet-

Despite its faults, the Mini will be a hard act to follow. With so many other small cars already established on the market and new ones—the Fiat Panda and, it is rumored, a baby Renault, on the way—the Metro cannot afford to be just good: it must be as good as the best, which is a tall order for any car company, let alone one

Peter Waymark

CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

temo; 3) and other expenses are paid in appropriate cases and temporary housing accommodation may be made available. Further details and application form, returnable by 4 January, from the County Secretary, County Hall, Maidstone, phone (0622) 674111, Ext. 3305. Reference 1/03 1/456.)

Salary to maximum £10,647

Applications are invited for this post which will become vacant early in 1980 due to the retirement of the present holder.

Applicants should be graduates preferably with a diploma in Archive Administration, and should ideally have had at least ten years' professional experience, some of which should have been in a senior position in a records office.

A wide understanding of archival duties required including experience with records management procedures.

Removal and other expenses are paid in appropriate cases and temporary housing accommodation may be made available.

Further details and application form, returnable by 4 January, from the County Secretary, County Hall, Maidstone, phone (0522) 671411, Ext. 3305.

(Reference 11/82. (455))

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Useful notes at end p. 14. All times subject to change without notice.

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THE ARTS

Coppola's apocalyptic obsession

Apocalypse Now (X)
ABC 1 and 2,
Shaftesbury Avenue
(from Dec 19)

Star Trek (U)
Empire, Leicester Sq

La Cage aux Folles
(AA)
Gate, Notting Hill

The Prisoner of Zenda
(A)
Plaza

The House on
Garibaldi Street (A)
Classic Haymarket

It is a frequent pattern of the creative process that a work originates from an idea which is in time altogether outgrown, so that it may be discarded like the wooden frame on which a mason builds an arch of brick and stone. This is the case with *Apocalypse Now*, a small sequence in an intended panoramic spectacle about the Vietnam Revolution. The catastrophe of Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* is that the author failed to recognize the point at which his first idea, outgrown, should have been jettisoned.

The first and admirable notion was that Joseph Conrad's mystical and metaphysical novel, *Heart of Darkness*, could provide a basis and parallel for Coppola's Vietnam epic. Conrad's tale is set among colonialist traders at the turn of the century. In the course of a long odyssey up river, his hero, Marlow, witnesses scenes of the greed and ignorance and cruelty and incomprehension of the conquering power. At the end of the journey, in the heart of the darkness of that continent, in "the stillness of an implacable force brooding over an inscrutable intention," stands the enigmatic figure of Kurtz, a man who has been more terribly corrupted than he is, simply because he had "come out equipped with more ideas of some sort."

The hero of Coppola's script (written in collaboration with John Milius) is Willard (Martin Sheen), an officer with a shady career of CIA operations behind him. He is given the mission of going up river from Saigon to Cambodia to liquidate a certain Colonel Kurtz, a once exemplary officer who has gone off the rails and established his own kingdom. Like Conrad's Kurtz, he is now "getting the company a bad name down there."

Conrad and Coppola both deal in concrete images; but while Conrad's journey is a metaphysical exploration, towards "some knowledge of the self," Coppola's is a progress into nightmare and madness. The opening of the film is itself a nightmare, with Willard's inverted head and dilated eyes superimposed upon his (drunk or drugged) visions of the war. Then, after the first two reels, is which Willard's mission is established, the film runs a total of 140 minutes, provides a series of individual set-pieces. The first into which we are violently launched is the craziest and most haunting: a helicopter strike on a Vietnamese village, with loudspeakers blaring out the *Ride of the Valkyries* from aircraft which bear the legend "Death from Above."

The set pieces—others include a crazed, lusty group of soldiers frantically shooting into the dark nothingness of the jungle, and the panicky massacre of the blameless crew of a passing fishing boat—are

filmed with all the flair and spectacle you might expect from Coppola's known skills, aided by four years' work and \$30 million. Indeed, if you walked out of *Apocalypse Now* after these first 110 minutes, you would feel you had seen the most memorable, if not the most profound, reflection of the Vietnam adventure.

At this point, though, Coppola remembers his commitment to Conrad and Colonel Kurtz and his original notion. By this time however he has constructed everything on a scale so massive that Conrad's Kurtz—a decent, trading station—will not do. To balance the rest, Kurtz and his kingdom have to be built up to spectacular scale; so that we have a monolithic Marlon Brando brooding over a vast city of ancient temples and rock sculpture, ornamented with the dangling corpses and severed heads and beheaded human skulls that are—along with his armies—the signal of his corrupted power.



Visions of war: Martin Sheen in *Apocalypse Now*

Kurtz's city is Tarran's magic island: Kurtz is no more than a sort of Wizard of Oz; and the film is lost. Kurtz's portentously mumbled musings, his readings from *The Hollow Men*, his bibliography, obligingly illustrated (Fraser's *Golden Bough*, *The Waste Land*, *Jesse Weston's From Ritual to Romance*) diminish everything to an embarrassing supermarket philosophy. Small wonder that Coppola could not decide how to end the film, even as late as its premiere at the Cannes Festival in May. The ending on which he has settled is as good as any, and as irrelevant to the ambitions of this majestic, spoiled enterprise.

Star Trek—The Motion Picture is essentially the same story. Space travellers of the twenty-third century (when, significantly, Earth is all one green America) penetrate to the heart of cosmic darkness to find a presence that has lost its bearings and begun to devour: it is a 300-year-old NASA space probe that has outgrown its intelligence and turned nasty because it has lost contact with its creator.



Leslie Sands, Pat Heywood, Barbara Ferris, Joan Sanderson

When we are Married
Lytelton

Irving Wardle

One negative point in favour of the National Theatre's birthday present to J. B. Priestley: it is not another agon for the long-awaited Priestley revival. Unexpected sides of this hugely productive author no doubt await rediscovery, but in the meanwhile here is an offering absolutely appropriate for the occasion: a popular favourite mounted with the same burnished precision which the Lytton has lately been

A period piece when it first appeared, *When We Are Married* represents a Yorkshire bid to catch up with the Manchester dramatists. The comic situation of three stiffly respectable couples discovering their marriages to be null and void on the occasion of their silver wedding, is one inescapably reminiscent of the 1914 Manchester-Gaiety; with the difference that by the time Priestley tackled it in 1938 much of the kick had gone out of the hypocrisies and class tyranny on which the laughs depend. Compared, say, to a rebellious piece like *Hindle Wakes*, it offers a safe game on licensed territory.

This brings two disadvantages. First, the whole piece consists of a set of variations to prolong the opening joke. Second, Priestley has to invent the victims, and in spite of his primary interest in character several of the Cleckleywell butlers are no more than walking antiques. Nothing more clearly proves the quality of Robin Lefevre's production than its success with these bone-headed aunt sallies whose one function is to give offence and undergo humiliation after humiliation. My wholehearted admiration goes to Joan Sanderson as the haughty Clara, who goes through the evening as a leathery punch-bag finding an endless succession of facial masks in response to each fresh outrage. Robin Bailey as the unspeakable Councillor Parker, a figure as uneventful as a provincial town hall, breaks up the granite surface with self-satisfied chuckles and unctuous platform manners; if still barely human he at least has an individual comic life.

The running gag throughout the play is that of status reversal within an unchanging status quo: butties changing into toddlers, hen-pecked husbands into Nietzschean masters (a stunning transformation in this department from Harold Innocent as a worm turning savage on release from the hook), servants turning the tables on their betters; a wife handing over to a mistress and pecking her with the full domestic workload. From the first moment of the anniversary party's appearance on their greedy feast, the production awakens your appetite for stretching the status contrasts to the limit. Leslie Sands, deputised to salvage his niece's honour, does not merely invite her suspected seducer into the room—he shouts the line as if summoning a dog. Nor, at the other extreme, could one imagine a more hopeless loser than the defeated moon-face Mr Innocent as the evening's first presents as the maritally battered Herbert.

Outside the closed family circle, the production scores with the figures of Ormonoyd the drunken photographer, the one wild card in Priestley's pack, whom Peter Jeffrey plays in the vein of an old actor chappie, his winks turning fruity at the memory of his studio, and gradually insinuating himself into the house and its liquid assets until the plot ingeniously confirms his right to be there.

There is a decidedly mechanical process at work in the plotting, whereby gestures of liberation are apt to be instantly capped by puritan reprisals, usually in the form of a lowering entrance through the sitting-room door: but the show's comic rhythm succeeds in muting the clockwork and presenting each such reversal as a surprise. Sets and costumes (Eileen Doss and Jessica Gwynne) uphold the Lytton's fine standard of detailed naturalistic reconstruction.

Television

Katie
BBC 1

Stanley Reynolds

Ireland, at least most of it, has not been John Bull's other island for some time now and one wondered at a play about the Irish last night, just why an English audience should be engaged by a play about Irish tinkers. Of course the Irish are always good for a few jokes, some songs and that heightened speech which the ill-informed put down as mere rhetoric, but which is the very soul of drama.

Katie, however, did not have a single joke in it and what songs there were were mournful ditties. There was also no heightened speech. This was not Sean O'Casey. It was Ian Cullen and John Norton attempting to be realistic and it made the hour crawl by in a cautiously slow manner. The subject was done, as were told, as the BBC plays department contribution to *The Year of the Child*. Katie was subtitled *The Year of a Child* and followed a year in the life of 14-year-old Katie who cares for her nine brothers and sisters and ailing

Robinson's Travels
BBC 2

Joan Bakewell

To disrobe is to disarm. Anyone who hares his buttocks to both the gamma-globulin needle and the cameras even before we reach the opening credits is craving our indulgence. Robert Robinson's *Travels* is a comedy, but it is a comedy that is as shy and diffident as the rest of us, isn't he, despite that opening sequence. Why, even Calcutta ruckuses, bookies had him flumming his change. And he positively glowed with pleasure at being given a lift by the Maharaja of Benares's elephant. Think what that camel-coated cosmopolitan Alan Whicker would have made of that!

No, Robert is one of us, really, the nicest kind of Englishman abroad meeting nice English folk who stayed on to perpetuate the petty snobberies of colonialism. But in doing so he was shadowing Emily Eden who went from Greenwich as a governor-general's sister 141 years ago, made the annual move from the steamy heat of the Calcutta plain to the cool hill station of Simla, and wrote a diary about it. Robert Robinson made two films instead.

He embarked purposefully on the first with Emily's book in hand, using her journey as a telling point of contrast. Sadly it did not tell enough. Gradually her contribution slipped away, an occasional modest quote, a sketch or two, and her diary was

Peter Robinson's reconstruction of the kidnapping of Adolphus Eichmann, the House on Garibaldi Street, must be factual, since no one could possibly make fiction seem so prosaically dull. This, and an appearance of having been shot on film, are insuperable handicaps; though the cast including Janet Suzman, Topol and Leo McKern (as Ben Gurion) is ambitious.

BBCSO/Gielen
Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

The past 10 days have seen the quite unusual spectacle of three new works being presented in the Festival Hall, and all of them by British composers. It may well be that last week's two offerings are never heard there again, but Alexander Goehr's *Babylon the Great is Fallen*, introduced on Wednesday evening, sounds to have enough monumental earnestness to establish for itself some sort of niche. It was perhaps intended to become a staple item for the big amateur choruses; a *Babylon's Feast* for the eighties or nineties. That ought to have been its place, for it was commissioned to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the BBC Symphony Chorus and it is certainly well made to stretch, but also to help, a large body of non-professional singers. The stretching comes from the awkward intervals which make each vocal part a stony road, the help from the comfortable shoes of strong harmonic movement and the crutches of counterpoint.

Goehr's serial style allows him to grasp tonal chords and shake them until they do his bidding. For instance, when he closes the second of his four movements with a B minor triad it is a facile gesture of finality, but a perfectly natural outcome of his lucubrations. As for his counterpart, it is enough to say that the piece is very nearly a symphony of fugues. When he vacated the chair in music at Leeds, he wrote a learned Chaconne as his "graduation exercise": the present work might be regarded as a text book of academicism in appeal to our great choral borders.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Is a new office boom on the way?

The public inquiry which began this week into an application by European Ferries Ltd to redevelop a site at Vauxhall, on London's south bank, is further evidence that a new round of speculative office building, the first since the early 1970s, is well under way.

The company envisages a 600,000 sq ft complex, including a 30-storey tower, of which nearly two thirds would be occupied by offices. It makes no secret that it regards the scheme as an investment, and in no way connected with its own requirements.

It is only three weeks since one of the longest inquiries ever held, into proposals for the south bank between Waterloo bridge and Blackfriars bridge, came to an end. There, one of the two main proponents, Greycoat Estates, submitted plans for a huge speculative project. An eleven-hour submission by Shell UK Ltd was disallowed by the inspector, although Shell maintains that it needs more space for its own staff.

In other parts of London, in Hammersmith for example, other large new buildings are under construction, with no obvious prospect of immediate resumption. The explanation appears to be that there is a great deal of money floating around looking for a home, and that commercial property, despite its present low yields, is seen as a "safe" investment.

What is causing concern, however, is that the new office buildings may well prove to be white elephants, on a scale that will dwarf such notorious speculations as Centre Point.

There are two main reasons for querying the prospects for growth of office employment in London. One is, quite simply, the probable reluctance of companies to continue paying inflated rents, and of commuters to pay ever-increasing fares to travel to work in ever-increasing discomfort.

The second, and far more significant, is the likely effect of micro-processors on the need for office staff. Reports, to which planners have turned a collective blind eye, suggest that, within a little as five years, the effects will be enormous.

Copiers, high speed duplicators, dictation units, automated test handlers, facsimile transmission systems, microfilm readers and small office computers could cause large scale redundancies among white-collar workers.

The Greater London Council is sticking to its view that it should encourage office development in "appropriate places". It is not at present worried by the prospect of over capacity, and is keen to encourage as much employment as possible in inner London.

The British Property Federation merely hopes that the present boom will not be followed by a "bust" like that of 1973. On the longer term implications, it is not prepared to comment.

John Young



Fortunately, his spirit lives on.

Only James Buchanan, regarded by many as the father of Scotch Whisky, could have composed a blend of fine whiskies so smooth and satisfying as to win the century-long devotion of his entire house.

The Buchanan Blend has now been introduced to the public in the belief that discerning whisky drinkers everywhere will appreciate its rounded excellence.



The Buchanan Blend
THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME

Next week another step towards friendship between Israel and Egypt Full steam ahead for peace

Already the Egyptians have issued visas to about 1,000 Israelis, due in part to their voracious appetite for tourism



Mr. Begin and President Sadat: a crucial test of the peace process.

Jerusalem. Specially fitted with a luxury casino, a swimming pool and a battery of fruit machines, the 5,500 ton cruise ship *Melody* is scheduled to sail from Haifa early next week bound for the bustling Egyptian port of Alexandria. An apparently frivolous event which in reality marks another significant step in the gradual establishment of friendly contacts between two nations which for 30 years were among the bitterest enemies in the Middle East.

On board will be more than 300 sun-seeking Israeli tourists who will be inaugurating the first Israeli cruise to her largest Arab neighbour since the foundation of the state of Israel in 1948. Providing there are no unforeseen hitches, the historic voyage is due to be followed in the New Year by a rapid increase in the pace of normalization, including the opening of land borders and the start of regular flights between Tel Aviv and Cairo.

The most significant event is scheduled to take place on February 16 when the two countries exchange ambassadors. An emotive and symbolic gesture which observers believe will sharply increase the antagonism to Egypt among the rejectionist Arab states.

Already the Israelis have selected Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, a former Mossad intelligence agent and close confidante of Menachem Begin, to be their first man in Cairo. The Egyptian side will be holding secret talks about the heavy security operation which will be required to guard the two embassy buildings, both of which will instantly become prestige targets for Palestinian terrorists and their allies from extreme left-wing groups in Europe and the Far East.

Inside Israel, the speed and sincerity with which Egypt

pursues the sensitive normalization programme is being regarded as a crucial test of the whole peace process. Under the terms of the Camp David agreements, Israel had to open proceedings by handing back large chunks of the occupied Sinai and its only oil field, which when returned last month was providing over a fifth of the country's domestic energy needs. Such moves have understandably created considerable public impatience for an Egyptian response.

In theory, the Egyptians are only committed "to enter negotiations" on the normalization of economic and cultural relations six months after Israel completes her military pull back to the Sinai interwar withdrawal line on January 26 next year. But among Israeli officials there are hopes that

talks on these key subjects will in practice be speeded up, a point which will be discussed early next month when President Sadat and Mr. Begin hold their ninth Summit meeting in the Egyptian winter resort of Aswan.

On the Israeli side, the complex process of normalization is in the hands of a small and specially selected section of the foreign ministry headed by an affable Syrian-born Jew, Dr. Joseph Haddas. A determined effort is being made to keep this part of the peace process quite separate from the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, which have been put under the control of the interior ministry.

There are growing fears that the Egyptians may attempt to link progress on normalization with the so far vain efforts to break the deadlock in the

of sick Egyptians have received medical treatment inside Israel and the two armies run an efficient and unobtrusive conveyer system along a stretch of Egyptian road which links two sections of desert still in Israeli hands.

But there have also been examples of friction, often resulting from the notorious slowness of Egyptian bureaucracy and from Egyptian sensitivity to sometimes tactless reminders of Israel's vast technological superiority. "The Egyptians are facing a huge psychological barrier and it is one that our people have to be conscious of at all times," explained one Israeli official. "After dreaming of annihilating Israel for 30 years, they suddenly have to adjust to being isolated from most of their Arab brothers."

Among Israelis, most of the resentment against the handback of the Sinai has been voiced for domestic consumption. By last month the Egyptians had issued visas to about 1,000 Israelis compared with only about 60 issued by Israel to Egyptians. The main reasons cited for the discrepancy are the relative income levels in the two countries and the voracious Israeli appetite for tourism. Many of the rejected Egyptian applications are understood to have come from people seeking work in Israel's higher wage economy. A problem which is certain to increase from January when the free movement of nationals is due to begin.

So far the mechanics of the peace process have worked as well as could be expected, but as western diplomats agree, the whole procedure is in need of a little more of a different gear. The pace will be faster and the dangers of breakdown more pronounced.

For its part, the Israeli public will be waiting anxiously for Egypt to provide substance to the Camp David agreements on normalization, while the world at large will be watching with equal anxiety to see if any formula can be devised to solve the unresolved problem of the Palestinians.

Christopher Walker

Will the test ban treaty ever be signed?

The most serious obstacle is still with the United States military

Another session of the Geneva negotiations over a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has just ended without any significant advance. This is disappointing because the British, American and Soviet delegations made such a promising start more than two years ago. But it is also very worrying because after a year of virtual stagnation, there is a very real fear that a treaty may never be signed.

A Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) was signed by the same three powers in 1963. This prohibited nuclear tests in the atmosphere, and since then all have been conducted underground. France and China, who did not have the facilities, refused to join in although all French tests have been carried out underground since their new site was opened in 1975.

In 1974 the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) which prohibited underground tests of more than 150 kilotons yield—equivalent to 150,000 tons of TNT. They also promised to keep their testing

to a minimum, without specifying what this might be.

However there has long been a case for banning tests altogether. For one thing we know little about the long-term effects of underground nuclear explosions. For another, total prohibition might help to inhibit the continuous advance in weapons technology, which serves only to complicate negotiations over arms control. A third argument is that some form of self-denial by the big powers is necessary to persuade non-nuclear weapon states to stay that way. The second review conference of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) is due next summer, and the big three badly need something to boost about by then.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, in its 1979 yearbook, records 1,165 nuclear explosions between 1945 and 1978, as many as 667 of them since the PTBT was signed in 1963. Most were designed to improve the efficiency of weapons, and more than 90 per cent were carried out by the three powers now working for a CTBT, although Britain's share was relatively small. Between 1976 and 1978 the Russians detonated 60, the Americans 37, the French 16, the Chinese eight and the British only three. In 1978 the Soviets actually conducted more tests than in any single year since 1963. Four years after signing the TTBT in which they promised to keep to a "minimum."

Yet, after the CTBT talks

opened, the Soviets made some startling concessions. They agreed that peaceful nuclear explosions (PNE) would be covered by the treaty (these are supposedly for civil engineering purposes), and even accepted the principle of on-site inspection of the principle of the provisions to verify compliance with the ban.

They even agreed to have 10 seismic stations installed in their territory. Seismic stations are boreholes containing sensitive instruments which can detect and identify underground explosions, even those of very low yield. Any information could then be transmitted to the other powers, probably by simultaneous satellite transmission. The Americans agreed to have 10 also although they wryly observed that the American media would do the job just as well.

But the Russians threw a spanner in the works by insisting that Britain should accommodate 10 also. Britain refused on the grounds that that as all

its tests were carried out at the Nevada underground site in Nevada, this would be absurd. Then the Soviets asked that nine of them should be scattered round the world in British dependencies, including the sensitive locations of Hongkong and the Falkland Isles. Britain still refused, pointing out its passing that at least two of the chosen sites were in territories which were no longer dependent on it. All that it has offered is one seismic station at an existing site at Eskdalemuir in Scotland.

It is all that the Russians are after. Each site would cost up to £3m to install and about £500,000 a year to maintain, although the cost is not an important factor.

The continuing dispute over seismic stations however is only one of several factors which held up progress, and not the most important. There are far more serious difficulties over how much detail to work out before presenting the treaty for signature by other powers, and over provisions for renewing it after the three-year moratorium on testing which it will introduce, has expired.

But the most serious obstacle remains opposition to it in the United States, among the military for instance, where critics fear that the treaty would erode technological superiority—particularly if the Russians cheat. (The verification measures, they insist, are not

sufficiently guaranteed). It was to placate such critics that the length of the treaty has been limited to five years. They also point out that without testing of any kind, the efficiency of stockpiled weapons could not be monitored.

These are highly controversial arguments, and President Carter remains deeply committed to the CTBT. But the President is already in difficulties over SALT-2, and is understandably reluctant to confront Congress with a still more explosive issue. It has already been said that President Carter could not hope to get the Panama Treaty, SALT-2 and CTBT past Congress during his presidency. Two out of three was the most he could hope for—and the Panama Treaty has already gone through.

So the Americans are reluctant to push ahead very fast with CTBT just now—and the Russians, also obsessed by SALT-2, seem in no hurry either. But as the SALT-2 debate in Congress draws further away, and the next Presidential election draws nearer, what are the hopes for a treaty? Edward Kennedy if elected would see Carter's commitment to it. But would a Republican like, say, Ronald Reagan? Some Americans are already saying that a CTBT is a lost cause for the time being—and the time being could last a very long time.

Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Geoffrey Smith

How the committees could get more weight

Select committees would force ministers to take them seriously

The new parliamentary select committees, started this week with the Home Affairs Committee, are questioning Mr. Whitelaw for an hour on Monday and other committees deciding what topics they will investigate. The meeting with Mr. Whitelaw was particularly instructive because it illustrated both the potential strengths and weaknesses of these committees.

There was, in a quiet way, a sense of occasion. The BBC taped the whole proceedings and will presumably use substantial extracts in the new weekly four-hour radio programme on select committees starting tomorrow morning. There were more journalists and other observers than usual; and the members themselves showed by their detailed questioning how seriously they were taking the proceedings. All this was an indication of the expectations aroused by the new committees. That is one of the principal reasons for hoping that they will achieve more than the old ones.

Nonetheless, Mr. Whitelaw was not induced to say anything of consequence that the committees would not have known already. He played, as it were, a totally defensive game. There are, indeed, few people in British politics who can say nothing so agreeably and adroitly when that suits his purpose. What was disturbing from the point of view of the new committees was that it evidently did suit his purpose to say nothing.

One of the principal objects of a strong select committee system is to enable MPs to engage ministers and senior civil servants in a serious dialogue in a way that cannot be done during the dramatic knockabout of question time. But that will be achieved only when ministers and their advisers believe that it is in their interests to have such a dialogue rather than simply fending off questions.

How can this change be brought about? Part of the answer lies in the quality of the work done by the committees. The more penetrating this is, the more respect they will win, and the more likely it is that ministers will think it worth a bit of trouble to answer them on their side. It would help a lot if the committees had more specialist staff, but that is a battle that is likely to be won only gradually. It is also important that those members with the most relevant knowledge should be chosen to serve on committees. So it is unfortunate that the Conservatives should be excluding the officers of their specialist backbench committees from serving on the select committees covering their field.

The actual nominations are made by the Committee of Selection, but there is a familiar complaint that the whips have had too much to do with the choice. When Mr. James Hamilton presented to the committee the Labour selection for places on the various select committees, the other Labour members present walked out because he felt that they had not been sufficiently considered by the whips in drawing up the list. The minority parties have been treated badly. Only two of the Liberals have been given a place on a committee, and it is absurd that there is no Nationalist on either the Scottish or Welsh Committee.

It might help if the Committee of Selection itself was chosen by the respective parliamentary parties instead of by the whips. But that would not ensure reasonable representation either

for minority parties or minorities within parties. Must depend ultimately, it would be wise to establish a convention that a minority party should sit on the Committee of Selection, even when that is justified by the strict logic of parliamentary arithmetic.

The key question, though, whether the activities of select committees are seen to be bearing in the decision-making process. A legislature is a body of men. It counts their votes, their make decisions and the power to influence them. I have gestured previously, in The 7 and elsewhere, that the select committees should over the function of public Bill, which is now performed by standing committees—ad hoc committees, despite title, set up to go through individual Bill clause by clause and that the select committees should also play a part in proving public expenditure Consolidated Fund Bill have argued, should be for their committees and these select committees could be examined by it. It would have the audit to switch funds from one of a department's activities, another and to reduce the but not to increase it—the committees would in come instruments for pe on each department's assent. The Bill as amended would go back to the full House, the report stage, in the

These changes would select committees a measure of real power, but there chance of either of them adopted in the immediate future. So, as an answer, get at least some of the effect by other means. proposed plan of action. Employment Committee in indication of how this be done. It will, among things, look at the long run of trade union consider the overall bud the department. The fit these activities will draw committees into the conte issues surrounding the Ex mury Bill. It would mean that the committee scrutinize the estimates, without having the power block or amend them.

If such select committees would be capable of activities which would go through in clause clause—its conclusions well influence the deliber of the standing committee. It also prepared reports a serious estimates field it would give an assessment necessary if is ever to be proper parli control of public expenditure.

In such case select committees would be capable of activities which would go through in clause clause—its conclusions well influence the deliber of the standing committee. It also prepared reports a serious estimates field it would give an assessment necessary if is ever to be proper parli control of public expenditure.

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ISTANBUL DIARY

left over, enough to cause an ecological disaster. Already, people have been urged to avoid eating local fish, much to the dismay of the excellent fish restaurants on the European shore of the straits, which can ill afford to lose their reputation on the frozen variety.

The orange tongues of the fire, leaping from the gutted tankers, are plainly visible from the big hotels that crown the hills of Beyoglu, on and around Taksim square, the heart of the modern city. The big hotels, except one or two, that is, the 600-bed international, for instance, have been closed down for nearly five months as a result of labour troubles. The hotel's American management, exasperated by union demands of 150 or 200 per cent pay increases, simply gave up the concession and walked out.

The ground floor of this tall, now desolate building is filled with dark red banners, the unmanned picket lines, proclaiming the victory of "Disk", Turkey's extreme leftist Revolutionary Labour Federation in what essentially amounted to cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

It is not the only instance. Halfway between the British Embassy and Galata Tower, another hotel has been shut for several months for similar reasons. The Pera Palace Hotel, one of Istanbul's most distinguished landmarks, built by Thomas Cook himself in the late nineteenth century, was in its heyday, the hub of this city's social life.

The hotel is now owned by a charitable society which runs a school for underprivileged

children. The concessionaire of the hotel has to close it down for a labour dispute. So, today, swathed in Disk's battered red streamers looking more like funeral drapes, this elegant building seems to be falling to pieces.

All this serves to underline the profound economic contradictions that spring from the staggering change in the population of Istanbul. It is enough to say that in the last two decades, the city's population grew from 1.5 million to nearly four million people—roughly two newcomers for every old inhabitant.

What is happening to Istanbul is a direct result of Turkey's problem of overpopulation. The country's 3.7 per cent birth rate is one of the highest in the world. It is only slightly diminished by the equally high infant mortality rate, but Turkey's population today is estimated to be 44 million rising at 2.4 per cent a year. Es. Premier Bulent Ecevit, now the Opposition leader, put it this way: "Every five years the population of a small European country is added to ours."

Istanbul has become a vast reservoir of idle manpower which is attracted to its periphery by the bright city lights and the rising expectations. They settle in the shanty towns known as "Gecekondus" ("built by night") and rely on makeshift occupations like selling sesame buns or lotteries or by peddling American cigarettes at Taksim, for their survival.

The "Gecekondus" have naturally become the breeding ground for terrorists of the Right and of the Left who act as pawns in a senseless game

of political violence that has already claimed 1,600 lives this year despite the martial law imposed in Istanbul and 18 other provinces one year ago.

Under the previous government martial law tended to be inoperative and for the time being this has not changed under the new conservative administration of Mr. Demirel. The occasional random acts of two half-baked men, parol fingers at the triggers of their machine-guns whose muzzles are uncomfortably jammed about

one metre above the ground. The armed guards at the banks and the occasional search of cars are common.

What impresses the visitor in Istanbul today is how crowded the streets are almost at any time. This reflects the 4,000 newcomers, mainly from the impoverished provinces of Turkey's south-east, who drift into town every day to set up household.

A striking contradiction here is that in a city where almost one half of the country's 2,500,000 unemployed live, the trade unions should be able to wield more power than the country's battered economy can withstand. The answer, perhaps, is that the labour unions here do not concern themselves with the jobsless.

The consequences of the rapid population growth are even more alarming if one thinks of the new country's key's population which is near the age of 19, and that even if the national income rises by a healthy 7 per cent, the real growth per capita is merely one half of that because of the population increase.

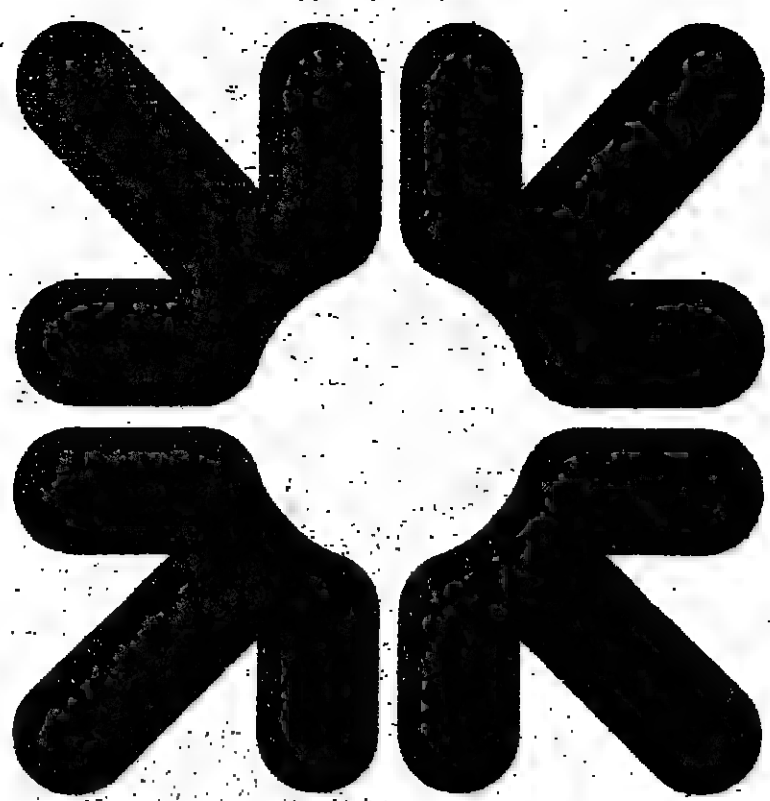
Many foreigners in Istanbul insist that the only long solution to Turkey's problem of unemployment and development is to open the door to foreign investors and to foreign technology. The or could then contribute its power as well as its vast rapped natural resources to very profitable partnership.

Yet there seems to be built-in aversion here foreign participation in the domestic economy. It is usually attributed to "capitalism" which in nineteenth century had the Christian merchant Istanbul extrajurisdiction and privileges which Turks considered humiliating and onerous.

Foreign businessmen long that the reluctance to foreign capital is prompted the fear of Turkey's int manufacturers of losing monopoly of a vast domestic market which has so far been satisfied with price qualities that would be a petitive by foreign funds.

The steady flux of urbanization in Istanbul to engulf the small minorities—the Greeks, Armenians, the Jews and descendants of the Latin shrunk them into ins canals. The less assu among the foreign res are gradually moving a So the cosmopolitan my that was once so unique to

Mario Mod



The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited

(formerly National and Commercial Banking Group Limited)

✱ The Results

	1979	1978 restated	% increase
Profit before taxation	£96.6m	£68.3m	42
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	£61.2m	£41.4m	48
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	27.3p	18.1p	51
Dividends per 25p ordinary share	3.92p	2.94p	33
Deposits and customers' current accounts (including notes in circulation)	£4,542m	£3,976m	14
Total assets	£5,175m	£4,445m	16

The improved results of the Group for the year to 30th September, 1979 reflected the higher level of interest rates and increased resources and advances on the one hand but a significant increase in costs on the other.

The operating profit of the Royal Bank of Scotland, one of the two main subsidiaries, increased by 25% to £49.0m; the range of customer services has continued to grow as has the development of its international operations. The other subsidiary, Williams & Glyn's Bank, had an operating profit 63% higher at £47.4m; the extension and development of its branch network has continued with improved services for domestic customers.

The new Government's economic strategy places considerable reliance on monetary policy and the banks are accordingly nearer the centre of the stage. It would be tragic if such increases in bank lending that are possible in these tight monetary conditions are used to finance exorbitant wage settlements rather than to underpin output and employment in what promises to be a

difficult year for the economy. In the longer term, containment of inflation and the achievement of sustained economic recovery must depend not just on Government policy but on considerable changes in attitude throughout industry and commerce.

I expressed concern last year about growing Government intervention, particularly in the banking industry. I am delighted to see some reversal of this disturbing trend—witness the abolition of exchange and price controls and welcome signs that official monetary management may, before long, give more scope for the free play of market forces.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group will do its utmost to effect further improvements in efficiency as a firm base for the expansion of our domestic and international business in the fiercely competitive banking environment of the 1980s.

Michael Herries,
Chairman

16th November 1979

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group is Britain's fifth largest clearing bank group. Its name was changed from National and Commercial Banking Group Limited on 3rd September to conform with the provisions of the Banking Act 1979.

The Group was formed in 1968, and its two main operating arms are the Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's Bank. The combined strength of the two banks provides some 900 offices from Lerwick in the Shetlands to the Channel Islands.

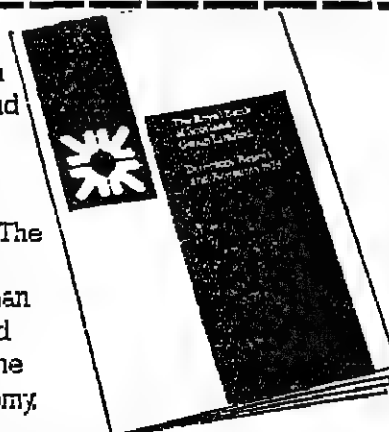
The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, established by Royal Charter in 1727, is Scotland's largest bank. It has pioneered many banking developments and provides a wide range of financial services in the UK

and overseas to meet modern needs.

Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited, whose origins go back over 300 years, is one of the major English clearing banks. As well as providing all the normal banking services, the bank prides itself on its attention to personal service, on its expertise in modern banking techniques, and on its extensive overseas connections through the Inter-Alpha group of European banks.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group has grown through its ability to satisfy the developing needs of its customers—industry, commerce and the private individual. Under its new name the Group will endeavour to provide the same efficient service that it has done in the past.

If you complete and forward to us the coupon we should be glad to send you a copy of the 1979 Annual Report and Accounts, on which this advertisement is based. The Report contains the full statement by the Chairman and includes graphic and pictorial information on the Group and the UK economy.



To the Assistant Secretary, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited, 36 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE.

Please forward a copy of the 1979 Report and Accounts.

Name

Address



£4.7m from Japan for project with Saudis

Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund will invest 2,700m yen (about £4.7m) in the Japan-Saudi Arabia Methanol Co, which is involved in a joint project in Saudi Arabia to produce methanol.

The fund will have a 30 per cent stake in the company, and the building of a plant at Al Jubayl on the mid-east Gulf is expected to be completed by 1985.

The company, organized by five Japanese groups has an equal stake with the state-run Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corporation in a \$270m (about £120m) project to build a plant to produce 600,000 tonnes of methanol annually.

Building will start early next year, and 85 per cent of the output will be supplied to Japan and the Asian market.

Oslo statistics
Norway's wholesale price index stood at 119 points by the end of November, up 0.9 per cent from 118 the previous month (1977=100), the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. The industrial production index rose 0.6 per cent from October to November.

Greek shippers reply
Greek shippers are trying to improve their image after coming under sharp criticism for a poor safety record and charges of modern-day piracy. They claim competitors are trying to steal business by spreading bad publicity.

Union wants 18 pc
The Baden-Wuerttemberg branch of the West German Metalworkers Union, IG Metall, demands wage increases of 10 per cent next year, Herr Franz Steinkuehler, the branch leader says.

Italian inflation eases
Signs that the Italian inflation rate might be slackening came with an announcement by the government statistics office that November's monthly increase in the cost of living index was 1.3 per cent, against 2.3 and 2.5 per cent in October and September.

Tokyo ship orders fall
Foreign shipbuilding orders received by Japanese shipyards in November fell to 21 ships totalling 344,100 gross tons from 29 and 948,300 tons in October, but up from 16 and 141,500 tons a year earlier, the Japan Ship Exporters' Association said.

Merseyside hit again as further jobs go in the new year

Lucas Girling trims factory by nearly a third

Another damaging blow to Merseyside's rapidly deteriorating employment situation was delivered yesterday when the Lucas Girling factory at Bromborough announced that it would cut its labour force by 450 in the new year.

Only 50 of the jobs that are to go will be accounted for by natural wastage. For the rest, it will be compulsory redundancy as the factory's present labour force of 1,450 is reduced by 29 per cent.

Representatives of six unions in the plant, which makes disc brakes for cars and some railway brakes, were given the news after many months of negotiations with the management over manning and productivity levels.

They were told that the statutory 90 days' notice of dismissals would be issued on January 8, and the management added a warning that unless it got full union and shop-floor cooperation in its cutback plans, the Bromborough branch could close completely.

However, there were clear signs yesterday that the unions were preparing to fight the redundancies. Shop stewards are understood to have drawn up a document for circulation to all workers, calling for opposition to the cuts.

A management spokesman said: "We must emphasize that there has been an enormous amount of consultation with the unions over the Bromborough plant. It has been going on for many months. We have stressed from the outset that there was overmanning and an urgent need to improve productivity."

Although there has been some response, the productivity levels have remained less than satisfactory, and the alternative to these reductions in the labour force could be only a total shutdown at Bromborough, with the loss of all 1,400 jobs.

The Merseyside plant has suffered from a number of serious industrial disputes. During the summer, the management stressed to the unions the need to reduce the workforce but said it believed this could be achieved through natural wastage if there was agreement.

The background to Girling's problems on Merseyside is a sharp fall in demand for its products by British and European vehicle manufacturers, with increasingly strong foreign competition.

The management spokesman said: "We have arrived at the present position only after a long struggle to reduce costs and improve output, and we have constantly been stressing that this was the only way to secure the future of the factory."

"There is a surplus of brake manufacturing capacity throughout the world, and it is essential that we remain competitive. In spite of the company's warning of the possibility of closure there seems little prospect, against the current Merseyside

unemployment background, of the cuts being accepted without another union and political uproar."

Unemployment on Merseyside is running at more than 12.5 per cent, and this latest blow comes on top of a number of big industrial closures, including the recent shutdown of the Airfix Industries toy factory at Kirby, which has led to a loss of 940 workers whose jobs have been lost.

Lucas Girling is taking pains to ensure that it is seen to be carrying out full consultation and notice procedures and so try to avoid the sort of storm that has broken over the heads of the Airfix management.

Nevertheless, the company is likely to find itself pitched into the centre of the political arena as another element in the present lobby gathering momentum over Merseyside's industrial plight.

The six unions in the Bromborough plant comprise the three largest—the Transport and General Workers', the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and the Electrical, Electronic, and Plumbing Union.

R. W. Shakespeare

Coal may soon be main cargo

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

Coal could outstrip oil as the most important seaborne commodity by the year 2000, a speaker at a London conference on bulk-carriers said yesterday.

The rapidly rising demand for coal as a substitute for oil could lead to a major shortage by the year 2000, the speaker, Mr. Michael Ratcliffe, publisher of Lloyd's Shipping Economist, predicted. His publication organized the conference.

But after burning their fingers so badly over tankers in the early Seventies banks would be wary of lending too much to the wrong owners. This, together with a shortage of cash among owners, suggested there would be no rush to place mass orders for tonnage, even though good growth prospects for ore and grain as well as coal meant long-term prospects for dry-bulk-carriers were "very bright indeed."

Japan now accounts for 35 per cent of world dry bulk imports, but Mr Ratcliffe questioned whether past economic growth could be maintained in the light of higher oil prices and competition from other Far East countries.

It was also becoming increasingly obvious that Russian industry and agriculture were not performing as planned, with oil, coal, and grain all failing to meet their targets. Polish coal was therefore likely to be diverted to Russia.

"The Soviets and their satellites will become more, rather than less dependent on the West, and this must have major political and economic repercussions," Mr Ratcliffe said.

Mr Frank Narby, of Euro-Canadian Shipholdings, said that fuel price rises meant present slow speeds at sea were here to stay.

Rhodesian tobacco influx may cut prices

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The re-entry on to world markets of Rhodesian tobacco, which at the time of UDI had been accounting on average for 25 per cent of Britain's supplies of raw tobacco, could stabilize tobacco prices and possibly reduce them.

This was the expectation of the British tobacco industry yesterday as the lifting of trade sanctions opened the way for tobacco sales from Southern Rhodesia.

Since UDI in 1965, Rhodesian tobacco has found its way on to various markets, including some on the Continent. Considerable sales have been made to Eastern European countries and to Russia, it is believed.

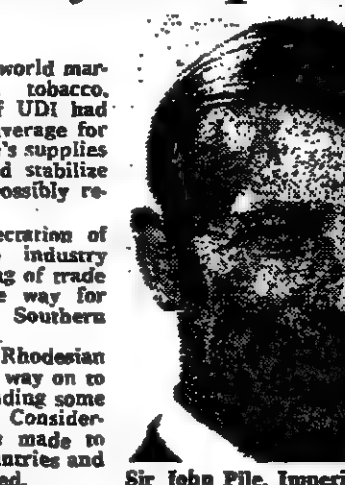
But British tobacco manufacturers are not expected to move quickly towards buying in the Rhodesian market. A great deal will depend on the price and quality of the crop now produced there.

The Imperial Group, whose chairman and chief executive is Sir John Pile, has assets including processing plants in Southern Rhodesia which had a capital value at UDI of around £3m.

The group is likely to be the first to send representatives, since the plant, part of its African Leaf Organisation, has been kept on a care and maintenance basis and is believed to be in good condition. Some forestry holdings appear to have suffered damage, however.

In the last year before UDI, Southern Rhodesian tobacco, which had a high reputation as a quality flue-cured leaf of the Virginia type, accounted for 32 per cent of tobacco coming into the United Kingdom market. On average it supplied 25 per cent of British demand.

It was difficult at first for British manufacturers to cope with the sudden cut-off in the



Sir John Pile, Imperial Group's chairman and chief executive.

supply of flue-cured tobacco, and there was a heavy reliance at first on United States sources. But India took up some of the slack, rising from about 11 per cent to 25 per cent of supply and the United States and Canada each have a 25 per cent share.

A variety of other sources were developed, including Brazil, Zambia, Tanzania, Pakistan and South Korea. British manufacturers therefore have no special need to switch back to Rhodesian supplies, although a switch could be made comparatively quickly because not many long-term contracts are involved in tobacco-buying.

Some estimates have put Rhodesian tobacco production during the 1970s at under 100 million lbs a year, but if stability remains in the country and it keeps its high expertise, the crop could rise considerably above this figure. Land and climate are both excellent for tobacco-growing, and some estimates put the annual possible crop as high as 500 million lbs.

Private steel sector backs BSC cuts

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Britain's private steel-makers yesterday backed the drastic cutbacks in capacity and jobs being implemented by the British Steel Corporation.

Dr Donald Hardwick, president of the British Independent Steel Producers Association, said that the plans were of fundamental importance to BSC, to the country, and to the welfare of the private sector producers.

BSC, which plans to cut capacity to 15 million tonnes a year from 21.6 million tonnes, has shed more than 30,000 jobs by next August, its major supplier to the private sector as well as being a competitor and important customer.

"Any major change in the direction in which BSC is travelling cannot but be of great importance to our companies and it behoves us to support them and wish them well in their monumental task," said Dr Hardwick, addressing the annual luncheon of BISPA.

He said his organization had always believed it vital for private sector companies to deal with a genuinely profitable BSC rather than with the "grey shadow" which prolonged subsidies created.

Cutbacks planned by British Steel are being mirrored on a smaller scale by private steelmakers. A number have already announced redundancies against a background of falling demand, although over the last few years the independent steelmakers have achieved an annual production level of between 3 million and 3.5 million tonnes.

Against the gloomy economic backdrop for major steel using industries, BISPA and BISPA last night published a production figures showing that crude steel production slipped by just over 1 per cent last month compared with the levels achieved in October.

Last month's weekly average production amounted to 34,400 tonnes, which, although below the previous month's output, was marginally above the levels achieved in November last year.

Over the first 11 months of this year, weekly average production has been running at 418,700 tonnes, which was 6.4 per cent higher than levels achieved in the same period of 1978.

In the six months from March this year, steel demand on the domestic market totalled 8.3 million tonnes but this had declined to a forecast level of 7.3 million tonnes for the second half of the year. The more pronounced fall in demand occurred in the flat products sector.

Other European steel producers are beginning to feel the effects of the downturn although not to the same extent as the United Kingdom producers.

OECD talks on plight of world steel

Paris, Dec 13

The Steel Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development met today for what was described as its first "inventive" meeting since it was formed just over a year ago. Individual members reported on the situation in the industry in their own country and a long time was spent hearing about the difficulties facing the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Robert Hornum, the deputy United States trade representative, who was chairman of the meeting, said the reports revealed that the state of the industry in the world was extremely patchy, with some countries doing well and others, such as those in the European Community and the United States, doing badly.

This, he said, was shown to be due to the domestic structure of the industry and to the economic activity in each country.

A major factor in the decline of the industry has been the fall in motor car sales and production, which in turn was due to the energy crisis.

He discussed reports that the United States would bring in anti-dumping measures to keep out European steel imports from the start of next year. No petitions for this had even been filed, he said.

Fuel from surplus sugar

From Mr Peter Green

Sir, With reference to the current surplus of sugar in the EEC, would this not be an ideal opportunity to start a European gasohol industry?

The conversion of sugar beet and sugar cane into alcohol is a relatively simple process and the surplus of sugar in the EEC could be used to produce a large quantity of alcohol.

This process is used extensively in Brazil with 20 per cent of the country's gasoline requirements coming from this source. There are plans to increase production substantially and next year 300,000 cars will be constructed to run solely on alcohol.

Surely, this potential source of energy should not be wasted in the mountains of sugar could be transformed into lakes of gasohol.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GREEN,
Maison Silence
3920 Zermatt
Valais
Switzerland.
Dec 6

Housing and investment

From Mr V. H. F. Green

Sir, Mr Robertson is to be congratulated in drawing attention (December 5) to the distortion in investment caused by the favourable tax treatment given to owner-occupiers. The

favours, however, lies not in the tax relief on mortgage interest but in the non-taxation of the annual value of the owner-occupier's residence.

This subject has been described as political dynamite. I have heard only one distinguished politician with the courage to sign the abolition of Schedule A, a tax on owner-occupiers as "the greatest fiscal malpractice since the 1939 war."

Governments led by men have so far lacked the nerve to abolish the dynamite. Is it possible that one led by a woman will be braver?

Yours faithfully,
V. H. F. GREEN,
31 Meadows,
Widenedon,
Northampton.
Kent.
December 5.

Selling TV advertising time

From Mr Kenneth Miles

Sir, I was very interested to read Mr Simmens' letter (December 7), proposing an ingenious method for improving the competitive selling of television airtime based on controlled auctions as in certain commodity markets. I don't think his proposal would actually work, because each unit of advertising time is quite different, whereas each unit of a conventional commodity is virtually equal.

Furthermore, the value of each TV airtime unit fluctuates (quite separately from other units) right up to the moment of transmission because of the alternative programmes on other channels or other competing attractions. An auction two or three months ahead would therefore be something of a lottery.

But the particular interest of Mr Simmens' letter comes from the fact that he shows that there are indeed other ways of selling TV airtime—there is absolutely no need for the competitive selling of airtime and unsatisfactory growth which has become a negative television contractors tend to ask "but how else could we do it?" Mr Simmens shows that where there's a will, there's a way.

Most advertisers believe that it is the basic, monopolistic structure that needs to be changed, rather than the mechanism but all attempts at opening up a wider discussion are welcome.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH MILES,
Director,
The Incorporated Society of British Advertisers Limited,
2 Basil Street,
London SW3 1AG.
December 7.

An institute to help inventors

From Mr David Foster

Sir, The letter from Mr M. E. A. Passmore (December 4) takes me back a couple of years to a time when I was writing similar letters to The Times. As a result of those letters, Pergamon Press suggested I research the subject in depth and write a book on it. The book, now published, is called "The National Innovation Institute" and will be published in February and deals with many of the points raised by Mr Passmore.

What I propose is the establishment of a new National Innovation Institute, which will hope will overcome the question of inventors' costs and rewards but make it unnecessary for them to take out patents or attempt to recoup from royalties. The system would operate as follows:

1. An inventor with an idea of promise would register this with the National Innovation Institute not unlike filing a patent, but without the financial requirements to the stage of a demonstration model. If it is necessary for the inventor to work full-time on the invention then he can include a request for living costs.

2. The National Innovation Institute then decides whether to support the inventor and the judgment would be taken not as to the novelty of the invention but as to its likely utility in creating British wealth or British jobs.

3. In the event of support being forthcoming then the inventor would receive an Innovation Grant so that he could get on with the job.

4. Progress of the development would be monitored by the National Innovation Institute and if they considered that things were proceeding with promise they would in-

Fuel from surplus sugar

From Mr J. M. Beckett

Sir, Lord Campbell, chairman of the Commonwealth Sugar Exporters' Association, suggests (December 1) that the expansion of the UK beer sugar industry is a threat to the security of ACP sugar to the UK.

How long will Lord Campbell go on citing windmills? British Sugar has publicly stated that the entry of 1.3 million tonnes of ACP sugar to the EEC (and 1.2 million of this to the UK in fact) is an obligation which it cannot ignore. Community, import duties.

Our view is that there is room for ACP sugar and British-grown beer sugar in the UK market. The ACP interest seems so obsessed with attacking us that they prefer to weaken EEC support rather than compete with them.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. BECKETT,
British Sugar Corporation Limited,
PO Box 26, Oundle Road,
Peterborough PE2 9QU.
December 7.

Meccano

From Dr S. J. Ware

Sir, I was utterly dismayed to read of the threatened closure of the Meccano factory in Lincoln. Quite apart from the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs in a depressed area, the demise of the model engineering system that has entertained and educated millions of boys and men all over the world, for three quarters of a century, can only be described as a tragedy.

Large sums are being poured into all sorts of industries to enable us to produce goods which can perfectly well be purchased abroad. There is, in fact, no Meccano in the world, nor ever invented, that part of our national heritage.

Yours, etc.,
STEPHEN WARE,
14, Cherrygarth Road,
Farnham, Hampshire.
December 4.

form the National Research Development Corporation

which would decide whether to take out patents on behalf of the nation.

5. The inventor would receive no royalties but if the National Innovation Institute decided that the work of the inventor had shown promise, he would be considered for the award of a Queen's Prize which might vary over a range between £5,000 and £100,000. Merit would be judged on potential utility towards national wealth or jobs.

The above system is very similar to the very successful system used during the last war for war inventions and involving the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors. It is the present impossible problems involving patent and model costs and having to bargain patent situations for royalties from a picture of utility, or even weakness.

The intimate exploitation of ideas would be placed fairly and squarely on the National Research Development Corporation, which already has the technical, scientific, patent, prosecution and contacts with manufacturing industry. But the NRDC would be the advantageous selection of only having to deal with inventions which had already passed initial high-risk screening to the demonstration model stage. Thus the role of the National Innovation Institute would be to act as a finder for the NRDC by filling the innovative gap between private invention and demonstration.

The National Innovation Institute would not be directly profit-making, for we have seen that this has had a disastrous inhibiting effect on risk-

taking at the NRDC. I have estimated that it would need an annual budget of about £100m to finance 5,000 private inventors, but we can be quite sure that the system would be demonstrably indirectly profit-making as shown by the longer term NRDC accounts.

The sum of £100m is the cost of a couple of months' losses at the British Steel Corporation and for that sum we could have 5,000 inventors of elected status, heaving away for British wealth and jobs.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID FOSTER,
White House,
Sunninghill Road,
Windsor,
Surrey.
December 5.

From Mr Arnold S. Ross

Sir, Mr T. P. Burton mentions (December 11) £1,000 as a lot of money for a private inventor to lay out for a patent.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. Valid patents are so frequently ripped off these days that the private inventor certainly does not have resources to tackle substantial companies through the courts to establish his rights.

Furthermore, even if the private inventor has the confidence in his invention to manufacture it himself, the difficulty in establishing a sales force to market it is a formidable obstacle.

Because of "corporate jealousy" my experience has been that organizations with their own research and development resources just don't want to know the private inventor.

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD S. ROSS,
Ross Designs,
19 West Beach Close,
Hampstead,
London NW3 7NJ.
December 11.

Wilkinson Match

Interim Statement

Six months ended 30th September 1979

"Depressed results as forecast by the Board. Despite the poor economic outlook, we expect better figures in the second six months."

Sir Richard Powell, Chairman

Group Results - unaudited

	1979	1978	Full Year 1978/79
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	127,311	132,153	271,686
Operating Profit	9,621	11,807	24,902
Interest	(3,292)	(2,541)	(5,900)
Associated Company	102	—	—
Profit Before Tax	6,431	9,266	19,002
Taxation			
United Kingdom	(1,045)	769	1,577
Overseas	3,742	3,053	6,262
	2,697	3,822	7,839
Profit After Tax	3,734	5,444	11,163
Minority Interests	723	775	1,264
Attributable to Shareholders (before Extraordinary Items)*	3,011	4,669	9,899
Earnings Per Share			
Basic	10.42p	16.22p	34.40p
Fully Diluted	9.83p	14.85p	31.40p

*Operating profit includes a surplus of £1,646,000 arising from the disposal of a shareholding in a chemical business in Brazil.

*Rationalisation measures in the UK, including the closure of a match factory in east London announced in August, will result in an extraordinary charge of £1,980,000 gross.

The current accounting period will run for 18 months to 30th September 1980.

Dividend

The Directors have declared a first interim dividend of 4.5p per share for the 18 month period to 30th September 1980, which, together with the imputed tax credit, is equivalent to 6.4285p (1978 = 6.2024p). This dividend will be paid on 1st April 1980 to shareholders on the register at 14th February 1980, and will absorb £1,287,000 (1978 = £1,207,000).

A second interim dividend will be declared in June 1980 and will be paid on 1st October 1980.

Wilkinson Match is an international company manufacturing and marketing Consumer Products and Safety and Protection equipment.

Registered office: 13 Stanhope Gate, Park Lane, London W1Y 5LB

مركزاً من زلازل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

DCL falters at the interim

when Distillers' rehabilitation was started, the whisky group had been set back on its heels by disappointing half-year results. Pre-tax profits fell back to £80.8m and the group's own forecast suggests a full-year outturn changed from 1978-79's £180m to £160m with earlier hopes that it would top £180m.

However reasonable the explanations for the setback, there must be more concern. DCL is facing tougher times. Volume in the United Kingdom was down and the price is clearly losing market share. And DCL's geographical and product mix is working against it.

The immediate cause of the shortfall, however, was the £9m loss in trading profits in industrial disputes. Distributors' stocks were the sting out of this but perhaps half the drop has gone irretrievably.

Elsewhere the United States has been jolly soft with industry statistics showing whisky shipments 9 per cent down and experience has amply reflected this, the recent price increases being completely offset by currency movements. DCL also has been hit hard in other important areas—Venezuela in particular where sales by around 44 per cent but areas like Australia and Spain have almost as poor.

Interest rates look as though they will keep distributors' stocks low in the half while consumer spending is under pressure in all DCL's major markets. Interim dividend is an unchanged 4.29p. DCL clearly feels that the one third last year was enough to satisfy holders.

So there is scope for perhaps a 10 per cent rise this year which still leaves the share at a current cost basis looking comfortable. A p/e ratio of 9 at 204p, down 7p, and a likely yield of 7.6 per cent about right for the moment, but DCL cannot afford to disappoint again.

Waiting for an 'B' move
profits up 22 per cent to £457m, a 10 per cent dividend increase and the use of a four-for-one share split to give marketability, ICL has set the scene for a forthcoming sale by the end of its 25 per cent equity stake.

Its part ICL is pressing for a widely-placed operation as the best means of raising the price of the shares, while at least publicly regarding the NEB overhang as a minor headache.

But the NEB factor, the shares cannot reflect all the excitement of an all-

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There can be little doubt that ICL will find the going tougher next year. Indeed outside the important United Kingdom and Europe where growth has been in the 30 per cent range profits already have a flat look about them.

How the giants will react to increasingly competitive conditions remains to be seen, but IBM has already shown how it can use its muscle by setting compatible-plug (pseudo-IBM machines) manufacturers on the run via the introduction of a new series. Overall, however, ICL seems to have the best niche in the market place with non-compatible systems and a powerful European customer base.

Growth prospects for the group in the 15 to 18 per cent range will seem realistic on a long-term view and the shares would seem to be only waiting on the NEB for a move on to higher ground.

ACC After the strike

Underlying profits at Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation look strong. Despite the reporting period profits for the first half dropped only £400,000 to £6.11m. Music publishing goes well although records are suffering from the general blight. Property and Ansafone did well and ATV, the Midlands television franchise, can be expected to make up for lost time in the second half.

Films, however, represent the risk/reward debate at ACC. Last year they contributed £2.25m to overall profits of £16.3m, way behind television (£6.29m) and some way behind property, theatres and music publishing. But these figures disguise the heavy borrowing and high risks in film production.

Bank borrowings last year were £30m. ACC is releasing the Muppets feature film, which Lord Grade calls a "blockbuster" and is set on becoming one of the world's major producers and distributors. Much, however, depends on the judgment of Lord Grade, now 72.

Still, no film flop is on the horizon, and Lord Grade points to the infallibility of his own judgment and his less subjective ability to discount contracts as safeguards.

On the trend indicated by these interim figures ACC is heading for at least £20m in the full year, but the interim dividend was held at 4.43p, which left the market a little cold so the shares were static at 112p.

Wilkinson Match

Allegheny in the background

The Allegheny Ludlum Bank which has expanded its profitable safety and protection side of Wilkinson Match is the only bright spot in a pretty dreadful set of interim figures.

Stripping out the £1.6m exceptional profit from the sale of the group's interest in a Brazilian factory, profits have been more than halved to £4.8m in the 6 months and the outlook for the full year is not much brighter.

The personal products division, which takes in razor blades and sunglasses, lost £2.6m. Wilkinson was left in limbo when the shaving market polarized between cheap disposable razors and top quality shavers, while the launch of the new "Profile" razor was delayed by the engineering and television strikes earlier this year.

Matches and lighters are also posing demand problems following the increase in VAT which hit cigarette sales. This is likely to be temporary, though Wilkinson's decision to close its London match factory, at a cost of £2m, suggests that it sees permanent changes in the market. Meanwhile, net borrowings have increased to around £9m.

Wilkinson has marginally increased the dividend to 6.4p and a similar rise at the end of the year implies a yield of 12 per cent with the shares down 5p to 138p yesterday. Given a p/e ratio of around 5, the possibility of a full scale bid from Allegheny is not in the price.

Ship Chappell, who will succeed Mr Tom as chairman of ICL in February.

A growth stock tempered only somewhat by lingering fears about ICL's ability to carry over the effects of recession on the industry in general.

The shares up 17p to 463p, the contrasts are underlined by a yield of 3.7 per cent—covered more than six times—and a tax-free p/e ratio of something under 10.

Business Diary: Sir Leslie's return

years ago, when Sir Leslie announced that he was leaving merchant bank to join the National Board as Lord's full-time deputy chair, there were more than a few raised eyebrows in the City.

to put too fine a point on it, many people in the City (and not a few outside) disliked Lord Ryder and were not impressed by the fact that an eminent banker, Sir Leslie (he was deputy chairman of Schroders) was going to Lord Ryder's NEB.

Sir Leslie proved to be a man in more senses than one, for only did he succeed in his job, he held out, along the NEB board, he had recently in greatest of overmen's decision to take responsibility for Rolls-Royce to the Department of Industry, but he has also found a way back to the City and is now, this time as a deputy director and not as a chairman.

This will not be surprising to those who know him. Sir Leslie was never the typical merchant banker. He was a man of many talents, a good way to the City, he worked for Hughell for two years from when Gaiskill was in charge and Power remained as a deputy.

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● The winner of *The Times* Woman of the Year award is the advertising agent Ann Burdett (above).

She is the chairman of McCann and Company group of advertising agencies. She was a weekend for two in Rheims, will have a vine named after her and will receive a bottle of champagne on her birthday for the rest of her life.

● Come Alain de Vogüé, the managing director of Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin, presented the award at a ceremony in *The Times* boardroom.

The winners-up were Carmen Chilli, the founder of the feminist publishers Virago, Anne Miles, managing director of the bookshop, and Michaela Bland, a London-based writer.

● The winners-up were Carmen Chilli, the founder of the feminist publishers Virago, Anne Miles, managing director of the bookshop, and Michaela Bland, a London-based writer.

The world's oil exporters meet in Caracas next week to fix prices. Nicholas Hirst reports

Will the hawks win this time?

The outlook for the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) starting in Caracas, Venezuela, on Monday, has changed radically in the past few days.

It had seemed that the moderate countries—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Qatar—stood little chance of being able to bring some desperately needed order back to the international oil markets.

The action of Iran in cutting back its production from some 10 per cent to 6 per cent of the world's consumption had so reinforced the power of oil producers to charge almost what they liked for supplies that it had made the official pricing structure of Opec irrelevant.

Not much more than a year ago Opec was in danger of splitting apart because of the strains caused by discounted prices and a glut of oil on its members' very different economies and political systems. The strains have been caused by exactly the opposite circumstances—a degree of uncertainty over future supplies, coupled with a demand not easily met, which has driven purchasers to pay prices so high that they are once again threatening the stability of western economies.

The worry that oil prices or a lack of supplies could threaten the political stability of the West has long been an important factor in the calculations of the vehemently anti-Communist regime in Saudi Arabia.

Shahid Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, would like to keep politics out of pricing decisions, but he cannot ignore the surge in Islamic feeling throughout the Middle East and the failure of the Camp David accord to make any real progress towards solving the Palestinian question. All these have their effect on pricing and supply policies.

Whatever the Saudis may think of the regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, however, they and their allies in Opec may both fear and deplore the holding of the



Shaikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah (left) and Ali Akbar Moinefar, respectively the Kuwaiti and Iranian oil ministers, key men at the Caracas talks.



American hostages in the Tehran embassy—the fact is that Iran has grabbed the initiative over oil policy.

Ali Akbar Moinefar, its oil minister, is going to Caracas with a brief to persuade other countries to follow its lead in cutting back supplies. From all their actions it is evident that Iran has no interest, and sees no self-interest, in helping the West. Its fanaticism cares little for the possible consequences.

The effort has been to show Opec, for the second time in its 19-year existence, that its economic power rests on acting like a cartel. The four-fold price increase in 1973, followed by a push through on the back of rising world demand and an embargo and savage production cuts at the time of the Yom Kippur war. The disintegration of the properly Opec price structure since the fall of the Shah has been caused by the lack of oil from Iran and the threat of further cutbacks next year.

For five years between 1974 and 1979 Opec held back from cutting production to create a shortage of supply. Saudi Arabia, bent on moderate

prices, could always prevent it happening by flooding the market with its own production. With Iran having made its cut Saudi Arabia's spare capacity of two million barrels a day is insufficient to have the desired effect.

Had Opec 12 months ago, realized that the strikes by the workers in the oil fields and the growing Islamic militancy of the population at large was to topple the Shah and change the political order of the Middle East it might have lifted prices to a level which could have been maintained as a sensible structure throughout 1979. As it was, the troubles in Iran merely allowed a rise which kept the members together.

Iran had in fact come to the rescue of an organization beginning to learn hard lessons about market forces.

Led by Iran, contracts with the multinational oil companies have been withdrawn. Libya, promising cuts to multinationals for 1980, brought them forward for this month. Iran has been selling on government-to-government deals. Shell and BP negotiating in Iran are reported to

have been asked for \$36 a barrel for their supplies.

Overall, possibly up to 20 per cent of Opec's oil has been sold on the spot market or at spot market related prices. At the International Energy Agency meeting in Paris earlier this week Mr David Howell, the British Secretary of State for Energy, was seeking general agreement among consuming nations to identify and discourage companies from paying prices fixed at a higher level than the official Opec levels.

His pleas were as much for curbing Opec as by the oil companies. The IEA committee stressed that Opec could pursue policies which would "contribute to stabilization of conditions in the world oil market and world economy".

With the isolation of Saudi Arabia trying to moderate price increases throughout the year by selling at \$15 a barrel, and increasingly from the point of view of other Opec members seen as undercutting their position, the chance of stable prices next year seemed slim.

Saudi Arabia was regarded as wrong-headed on two counts:

Not only was it selling its oil too cheaply, it was also selling too much of it. Its long-term production ceiling of 8.1 million barrels a day had been raised to 9.1 million barrels a day to ease the world shortages. Had it gone to Caracas trying to maintain both positions, the chances of an agreement would have been slim indeed.

Its reported decision this week to increase the price of its light crude, the benchmark from which all other Opec prices are fixed, from \$18 a barrel, to \$24 (a price which would also be fixed by Qatar, Venezuela and the UAE) may take a lot of the heat out of discussions next week.

The importance of the change is psychological, by breaking through the upper limit of \$23.50 fixed at the Geneva conference earlier this year. Saudi Arabia will be seen to have moved from its extreme position of attempting to hold down values to a level, which, in other Opec members' eyes, helped only the Americans. It will also be easier for Saudi Arabia to agree to \$25 or \$30 if it goes to Caracas with its prices already at \$24 than it would if it had to move from \$18.

The Saudi Arabians are gambling that by moving so far they can bring other states into line, reduce the pressure on the spot market and ease the pressure for production cuts which could badly hurt the West.

As at Abu Dhabi a year ago, when the price before the meeting was still only \$12.70 a barrel, the hawks and the moderates may be drawn together by the skillful negotiating of the Kuwaiti led by their oil minister, Shaikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah.

Last year all the Kuwaiti's skill was in vain. Within weeks of the meeting the oil market was in disarray.

Without doubt 1979 has been a year of shock for the West. We like to be able to fill our cars with petrol at will and drive them where we choose. There is no guarantee that such freedom will be available to all countries next year. Nor for five years has the outcome of an Opec meeting been so uncertain, yet so important.

Technology

Putting a computer in your car

Kenneth Owen

The long-awaited marriage of electronics to the car has happened, a Ford Motor Company vice-president declared recently: the challenge now is to keep it a happy union.

His metaphor can be taken further: each partner has much to offer the other, since micro-electronics can give the car and its engine a much more accurate and refined control and the motor industry can give the microprocessor and attendant microcircuitry a very significant new mass market.

Fuel economy and exhaust emission controls are two main factors which have accelerated the introduction of micro-electronics in cars. Sometimes the two are in conflict—running an engine at a higher temperature may improve fuel economy but at the same time increase the emission of nitrogen oxide.

—but the finer control which the microprocessor provides can give remarkable overall improvements.

Japan has the most severe car emission regulations in the world and an outline of the main lines of electronic development for cars in that country was given recently by Hitachi speakers at an automotive electronics conference organized by the Institution of Electrical Engineers. They listed seven generally applicable advances.

These are contactless ignition, using power transistors instead of contact points; electronic control of injection timing; fuel system with feedback control (to give a precise air/fuel mixture ratio for emission control); microprocessor controls for fuel and ignition timing;

An anti-skid module using Doppler radar measurement of the vehicle speed; a "drive computer" and electronic display, which can calculate and display a wide range of information on times, distances and speeds; and electronic control of air conditioning.

These are typical of the new systems which are being developed and introduced in a number of car models. The Hitachi speakers also described a Japanese experiment in which traffic in a section of south-western Tokyo was monitored and guided towards individual destinations by a radio-controlled dashboard display. This route guidance proved effective in reducing journey times; a two-year follow-on programme to develop a more practical system is in progress.

It is of course, the micro-electronic revolution—and in particular the increasing logical power and memory, and decreasing cost, of large-scale integration (LSI) microcircuits—that is enabling the sort of complicated control that was previously available only in computer-based industrial processes to be applied in the car.

Replacing the traditional dashboard instruments with electronic digital displays is an obvious use for the new technology. Ford's experience in the United States gives an idea of how the process is gradually taking place.

In its 1977 models Ford introduced a light-emitting diode (LED) display on a digital clock radio which showed the time of day or the radio frequency on command. The following year a

"distance to empty" indicator was introduced to predict how many miles could be driven on the fuel remaining in the tank.

Some of Ford's 1979 models incorporated an electronic digital clock which showed the day, date and elapsed time. This also included a warning display panel. In the new 1980 models an all-electronic instrument cluster has been introduced which includes a bar-graph fuel gauge, a digital speedometer and a "message centre".

The message centre is typical of the new electronic instruments that will be appearing more widely soon, initially in the more expensive cars but spreading down to the cheaper models later. Ford's version is a day/date clock which can display eleven warning messages and "drive" computer information.

This digital electronics makes possible a wide range of new possibilities on the dashboard. Also, as cars become increasingly similar in their outside appearance, the quest for minimum air resistance pro-

duces near-identical shapes) it is being suggested that, in the next 10 years, the manufacturers' battle to win customers will take place in the interior of the car and in particular on the instrument panel.

Volkswagen sees three interconnected, microprocessor-based electronic centres emerging in the car of the future—one for driver information, one for the car itself and one for the engine. The driver information centre, as in the Ford example, will replace and extend the present mechanical instruments and indicator lamps. Some such extension could be a radio-linked guidance and information system of the type now being explored in Japan and Germany.

The car electronics centre could handle two useful functions in the future. One would be to activate a passive restraint system, an alternative to the seat belt which could be fitted in certain models from 1983. The other is an automatic cruise control which, if linked to radar guidance or a radar sensor, could control the distance of the car from the vehicle in front of it (the driver would be able to override the automatic control if necessary).

The engine electronic centre could be used to change the

ignition timing to enable a leaner mixture to be used for idling; provide electronic ignition matched to the engine type; provide an electronic carburettor to meet Californian legislation; a Fiat 132 engine, fitted with a microprocessor which controls ignition, fuel injection and a five-speed automatic gearbox.

A significant development was demonstrated in road tests last week at the Fiat Research Centre, Turin. This was a car which used a Fiat 132 engine, fitted with a microprocessor which controls ignition, fuel injection and a five-speed automatic gearbox.

On the basis of variations either initiated by the driver or detected by sensors, the processor issues "commands" to optimize fuel consumption and emission by metering the fuel injected, setting the spark advance, adjusting the throttle and selecting the appropriate gear.

In these and other ways the marriage between electronics and the automobile is being consummated. What has already been demonstrated is the reduced fuel consumption and closer control of emissions. For the future, aircraft-type systems for collision avoidance and spacecraft-type video-screen displays will technically be feasible—at a price.

Business Diary: Sir Leslie's return • Sir Tony and after

years ago, when Sir Leslie announced that he was leaving merchant bank to join the National Board as Lord's full-time deputy chair, there were more than a few raised eyebrows in the City.

to put too fine a point on it, many people in the City (and not a few outside) disliked Lord Ryder and were not impressed by the fact that an eminent banker, Sir Leslie (he was deputy chairman of Schroders) was going to Lord Ryder's NEB.

Sir Leslie proved to be a man in more senses than one, for only did he succeed in his job, he held out, along the NEB board, he had recently in greatest of overmen's decision to take responsibility for Rolls-Royce to the Department of Industry, but he has also found a way back to the City and is now, this time as a deputy director and not as a chairman.

This will not be surprising to those who know him. Sir Leslie was never the typical merchant banker. He was a man of many talents, a good way to the City, he worked for Hughell for two years from when Gaiskill was in charge and Power remained as a deputy.

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● The winner of *The Times* Woman of the Year award is the advertising agent Ann Burdett (above).

She is the chairman of McCann and Company group of advertising agencies. She was a weekend for two in Rheims, will have a vine named after her and will receive a bottle of champagne on her birthday for the rest of her life.

● Come Alain de Vogüé, the managing director of Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin, presented the award at a ceremony in *The Times* boardroom.

The winners-up were Carmen Chilli, the founder of the feminist publishers Virago, Anne Miles, managing director of the bookshop, and Michaela Bland, a London-based writer.

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● It is proving no easier to find a new chairman for British Shipbuilders than it is for other loss-making state corporations, British Steel.

Business Diary's lunch is that no notice two weeks ago. But it was not always so.

Only nine months ago one government body, the Northern Ireland Development Agency, went into partnership with human's Connection-based Chair Corporation to buy control of Defence contractor Wharton Engineers, of Epsom, Hertfordshire, and its Northern Ireland subsidiary Everton Engineering.

The then Northern Ireland Secretary of State Roy Mason had a warning meeting with Eumann in front of television cameras at an hotel outside Belfast to sign the agreement before they went inside for a private lunch together.

Having put up £375,000 each the government agency and Eumann's company hold 45 per cent apiece of Wharton-Everton's equity.

Former owners, the Hudson group, stayed in with 10 per cent and John Hudson still occupies the chair though Clabir provide the management.

John Nott's Department of Trade has brought out a useful free booklet called Zimbabwe Rhodesia: Information for Business Visitors. A more detailed Hints to Exporters is to follow. I hope the second book hints that the country is now called Southern Rhodesia.

Ross Davies

● I may have stumbled on one thing the almighty dollar will not get you in the United States—the legs of model Cheryl Tiegs (below).

According to *Fortune* magazine, the cosmetics group Noxell.

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Really Dry Gin

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. \$ Contango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan 7

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Ash at Ower: Interview with botanist David Bellamy and award presentation to cameraman at Pebble Mill (the BBC Midlands studios) from the Guild of Television Cameramen. Also Peter Seabrook's gardening spot.

1.45 Camberwick Green: puppet tale (r). Close down at 2.00.

3.20 Fobol y Cwm: serial in Welsh.

3.55 Play School: Irene Cockroft's story The Anything Book.

4.20 Mashed: cartoon. Pig visits the Antipodes.

4.25 Jackanory: final reading from John Galsworthy's Lancelotti, series read by the author.

4.40 Hong Kong Phooey: cartoon. Mr Tortoise (r).

4.55 Crackerjack: magazine programme for children.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School: game as BBC 1.

3.55 Close-down at 11.25.

5.40 Laurel and Hardy: The Perfect Day. One of their earliest sound films, and a classic. Stanley and Oliver plus uncle with gaudy foot, plan a picnic. Much fun with that foot and especially the picnic car.

6.00 Monkey: fantasy about old China. Made by Japanese TV, and now rendered into English.

6.45 Animation at Cambridge: cartoons.

7.00 Cricket: Australia v England. Satellite coverage of the first Test in Perth. Ritchie Bennett introduces the highlights.

THAMES

9.30 am Once Upon a Time: children's story. The Three Whitties.

9.45 Felix the Cat: ancient cartoon.

9.55 Conquest of the Sea: treasures on the sea bed off Greece and Turkey.

10.40 Film: Promises Him Anything (1975). Television movie about a man (Eddie Albert) who takes his computer-date girl friend (Meg Foster) to court.

11.55 The Bubbles: cartoon. Cuthbert's Baffie.

12.00 The Learning Tree: stories of a tree of wisdom.

12.10 pm Pipkins: story. The Odd One Out.

12.30 The Sunbats: Australian family serial. Terry's aerial dreaming.

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News.

1.30 Simply Sewing: dressmaking series with Lelia Atken.

BBC 1

5.40 News with Kenneth Kendall.

5.55 Nationwide: includes Desmond Lynam's Sportsweek.

7.00 Up a Gum Tree: David Bellamy and the giant scorpion off the Australian coast. Then on the coral reef north of Brisbane. Also, a visit to Squeaky Beach, named after its squeaking sand.

7.30 My Wife Next Door: Enter a rich uncle from New Zealand, not knowing his favourite married couple (John Alderton, Hannah Gordon) are divorced.

8.00 Peanaric: We have reached 1927. Philip (Rupert Everett) discovers the reason for his impotence.

9.00 News with Richard Baker.

9.25 International Show Jumping: The Corvossier Comet Napoleon Sables from Olympia. All seven British riders short-listed for the Moscow Olympics are expected to take part.

10.30 Points of View: viewers

BBC 2

7.30 News with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.40 Better Badminton: penultimate segment of the series which works hard to improve your game. Footage level doubles. Includes newsworld film shot in the 1930s.

8.45 In the Country: A visit to the Forestry Commission's plantations at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, to learn about the wild deer there. Also a report on trout fishing at the Chew Valley Reservoir near Bristol. Studio interview, with conservationist Elizabeth Eyden.

8.55 Film: The Road to Nowhere (1959). Another Warner Brothers success. Gangster thriller with

THAMES

2.00 After Noon Film: Two Scottish ladies are each given £30 and told to make the most of themselves in preparation for a special night out. Also an item on blood and kidney donors.

2.45 Film: Fine Canyon is Burning (1977). One-man fire-fighting team. With Ken McLeod as the firefighter.

4.15 The Flockin' Flyer: stories of a family who run their own steam train (r).

4.45 Meggie: children's magazine programme.

5.15 The Brady Bunch: American family series.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.

6.30 Thames Sports: Ronald Allison surveys the prospects for the weekend, and Brough Scott concentrates on the racing scene.

7.00 Muppet Show: tonight's human guest is the American singer and songwriter John Denver.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 474m/633kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 52-55 VHF. Greater London only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 25m. 97.5 VHF. Capital 194m. 85.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 306m. 54.3 VHF.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.

6.10 Farming Today.

6.30 Today.

6.55 (m-v only) News.

7.00 (v-hf only) News.

7.30 8.30 Headlines.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Enquire Within.

10.00 News.

10.05 From Our Own Correspondent.

10.30 Daily Service.

10.45 The Bandman's Daughter (15).

11.00 News.

11.05 You, the Jury.

11.15 Bird of the Week.

12.00 News.

12.05 pm You and Yours.

12.17 My Word.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.05 Woman's Hour.

3.00 News.

3.05 Listen with Mother.

3.15 Play: An Inspector Calls, by J.B. Priestley. 4.45 Story: The Christmas Star.

5.00 P.M.

5.55 Weather.

6.00 News.

6.05 Going Places.

7.00 News.

7.05 The Archers.

7.30 Pick of the Week.

8.10 Prefaces to Shakespeare.

8.30 Any Questions.

8.45 Letter from America.

9.30 Kaleidoscope.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.15 Regional news, weather.

11.00 A Book at Bedtime.

11.15 Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Today in Parliament.

11.40 Orson. Broadcast.

11.55-12.00 News.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 News.

12.35 Regional news, weather.

12.50 pm Regional news, weather.

11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

Radio 3

5.30 am-10.05 (m-v only) fm 7.00 Crick: Australia v England.

10.30 BBC NI Orch/Dods: Rossini, Lyon, Duparc, Berlioz.

11.15 Violin and piano. Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Grieg.

12.05 pm BBC Northern SO: Boettcher, Hindemith, Bartok (Vin Conc).

1.00 News.

1.05 BBCSO: Brahms (Sym 2).

1.30 The Arts Worldwide.

2.20 String quartets: Haydn, Nencelsson.

3.15 Puccini, 4 hands: Busoni, Hindemith, Shostakovich.

4.25 Comparing Notes.

5.25 Homeward Bound.

6.00 News.

6.15 At Home.

7.15 Review: One Pair of Legs.

7.30 Piano trios (Pravkin-Fleming, Roberts, live from Broadcasting Centre, Birmingham): Beethoven, Shostakovich.

8.15 Talk (John Sparrow): The Female Nude.

8.35 Piano, trio: Dvorak. 9.35 Story: Reginald's Besting Nuts, by Saki.

9.30 Schoenberg (Gurrelieder - Swiss Radio rec), pt 1.

10.30 Talk: Greece Test.

10.40 Gurrelieder, pt 2.

11.40 Orson. Broadcast.

11.55-12.00 News.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 News.

12.35 Regional news, weather.

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11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 News.

12.35 Regional news, weather.

12.50 pm Regional news, weather.

11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 News.

12.35 Regional news, weather.

12.50 pm Regional news, weather.

11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 News.

12.35 Regional news, weather.

12.50 pm Regional news, weather.

11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 News.

12.35 Regional news, weather.

12.50 pm Regional news, weather.

11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

cont. 2.15 David Hamilton. 4.15 Much More Music. 5.00 News. 5.05 Waggoners. Walk. 5.20 John Dunn. 6.45 Sports Desk. 7.02 Listen to Us. 7.30 Fiesta de Doria. 8.02 Peter Knight. 8.45 Friday Night in Music Night. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Victor Silvester. 11.05 Brian Matthew. 2.02 am 5.00 You and the Night and the Music.

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.00 Dare. 6.05 News. 6.10 Simon Bates. 11.31 Paul Burnett. 1.00 pm Andy Peebles. 4.31 Kid Jensen. 6.31 Roundtable. 8.00 Al Matthews. 9.50 Newsbeat. 10.00 The Friday Rock Show. 12.00-5.00 am As Radio 2. vhf radios 1 and 2. 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

World Service can be received in the UK on the following frequencies:

6.00 am News. 7.00 World News. 7.05 News. 7.10 World News. 7.15 News. 7.20 World News. 7.25 News. 7.30 World News. 7.35 News. 7.40 World News. 7.45 News. 7.50 World News. 7.55 News. 8.00 World News. 8.05 News. 8.10 World News. 8.15 News. 8.20 World News. 8.25 News. 8.30 World News. 8.35 News. 8.40 World News. 8.45 News. 8.50 World News. 8.55 News. 9.00 World News. 9.05 News. 9.10 World News. 9.15 News. 9.20 World News. 9.25 News. 9.30 World News. 9.35 News. 9.40 World News. 9.45 News. 9.50 World News. 9.55 News. 10.00 World News. 10.05 News. 10.10 World News. 10.15 News. 10.20 World News. 10.25 News. 10.30 World News. 10.35 News. 10.40 World News. 10.45 News. 10.50 World News. 10.55 News. 11.00 World News. 11.05 News. 11.10 World News. 11.15 News. 11.20 World News. 11.25 News. 11.30 World News. 11.35 News. 11.40 World News. 11.45 News. 11.50 World News. 11.55 News. 12.00 World News. 12.05 News. 12.10 World News. 12.15 News. 12.20 World News. 12.25 News. 12.30 World News. 12.35 News. 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